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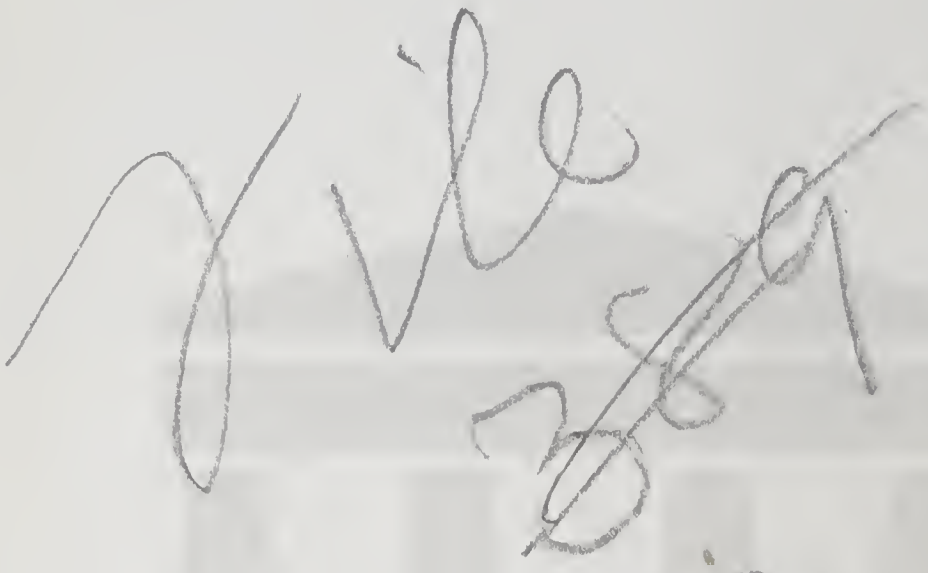

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HANDBOOK FOR TRAVELLERS

IN

SOUTH WALES

AND ITS BORDERS, INCLUDING THE RIVER WYE.

FOURTH EDITION.—REVISED.

WITH A TRAVELLING MAP.

LONDON:
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.
1890.

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PREFACE.

WITHIN the last fifty years, South Wales has gradually become so opened up by roads and railways, that almost every part of it is now easily accessible to the tourist. The sole exception is the district between Haverfordwest and St. Davids, and the sea-coast thence to Aberaeron.

The same cause has tended so largely to the development of mining and manufacturing enterprise, that the face of the country is, in many districts, completely changed, and many of its natural characteristics are being swept away. It is one consolation, though this will be cold comfort to the tourist, that the people are growingly prosperous.

The Editor had done his best to correct mistakes, and to indicate changes by enquiries made on the spot, and by application to local residents, whose kindly assistance as well as that of several friends and archæologists he gratefully acknowledges; but, as inaccuracies will creep in, he requests that any notice of such may be kindly sent to him, to the care of Mr. MURRAY, 50A, Albemarle Street.

1889.

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I. Physical Features.

Few countries are more diversified than S. Wales, or present greater contrasts and variety in scenery. All the requisites of perfect landscape,—mountains (though seldom rising to the grand), desert moors, wooded hills, smiling valleys, broad rivers, and rushing torrents,—all offer themselves in turn to the view of the traveller. The mountain ranges may be divided broadly into 4 groups, each forming the characteristic feature of a quarter of the country, and each giving rise to one or more of the principal rivers.

1. *The S.E. Division*, comprising roughly the district between Abergavenny and Llandeilo on the N., Newport and Kidwelly on the S.—The space between these towns is almost entirely filled up by one massive group, which in fact constitutes the coal-basin of S. Wales, bounded on the N. and E. by the valley of the Usk, and on the W. by that of the Towey. The principal eminences in this range are the Blorenge (1908 ft.), Mynydd Llangynider, Brecon Beacons (2910 ft.), Caermarthenshire Beacons (2598 ft.), the Fan Lisgaer, Talsarn, Cribath, and Trichrûg, the northern slopes of which give rise to the Usk and its tributaries, the Senni, Tarell, &c. About $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. nearly due E., and within the county boundary, is the Fan Brechelmorig, or Breconshire Beacon, 2631 ft. (This is 12 m. W. of the Brecon Beacon = 2910 ft.) On the southern slopes, however, a different arrangement prevails; and instead of a tolerably uniform line of old red sandstone and mountain limestone hills extending E. and W., lofty and narrow ridges containing coal-measures are thrown out in a general direction to the S. or S.W., most of them running nearly to the sea-

coast. In consequence of this the valleys change their direction to due N. and S., the country is more broken and romantic, and the streams narrower and more impetuous.

The most noticeable of these ridges are Cefn Crib, Cefn Gelligaer (1574 ft.), Mynydd Llangynidr, Merthyr, Mynydd Llangeinor, Craig-y-Llyn, Cefn, Mynydd March Howel, Cefn Drim, and Mynydd Carn Goch, from whence emerge the Ebbw, Rhymney, Taff with it feeders Rhondda and Cynon, the Llynfi, Ogmore, Afon, Neath, Tawe, Lloughor, and Gwendraeth rivers. It must not be forgotten, too, that the Usk, after flowing due E. from Trecastle to Abergavenny, turns abruptly to the S. to fall into the Bristol Channel at Newport.

2. *The S.W. Division*, which we may imagine to be bounded by Cardigan and Llandovery on the N., Pembroke and Caermarthen on the S., is chiefly marked by the Preseley Hills (1754 ft.), running from E. to W. and dividing the county of Pembroke into two parts. From thence a range of high ground continues to Llandovery, occupying the district between the Cothi, Towey, and Teifi.

The principal streams arising from these hills are the Cothi and Gwili, joining the Towey near Caermarthen; the Tâf and the Cleddau, which fall into the Bristol Channel at Milford Haven: besides the Gwaine and Nevern, which fall into the sea at Fishguard and Newport respectively.

3. *The N.E. Group* may be again subdivided by the Wye, which runs through the centre of it in rather a circuitous course. Between the great valleys of the Usk and Wye are the Black Mountains and Hatterill Hills, an immense block of mountains, of which the principal heights are Pencader (2630 ft.), Pen-carreg-calch (2250 ft.), and Penallt Mawr (2361 ft.), with the outliers of the Sugarloaf and Scyrrid; while further to the W. are the ranges of Cefn Llyddlo, Mynydd Epynt, and Bwlch-y-groes, together with the high grounds round Llanwrtyd known as the Forest of Esgob and Drygarn. These mountains give birth to the tributaries of the Usk and Wye: of the former, the Grwyney, Honddu, and Yscir; of the latter, the Monnow, Yrfon, Chweffru, Claerwen, and Elan. The district N. of the Wye is wild and isolated, consisting chiefly of Radnor Forest and its outliers, which embraces the whole of Radnorshire and includes the picturesque scenery in the neighbourhood of Builth and Rhayader. The Edw, Ithon, and Marteg are tributaries to the Wye from these highlands, though the most northerly portion is watered by the Teme, Lugg, and Arrow, which flow in an easterly direction through the fertile plains of Herefordshire.

4. *The N.W. Division* is the wildest of the whole, comprising on the S. the extensive chain of mountains between the Towey and the Teifi, or in other words between Llandovery and Tregaron. Although extending over a very large area, they nevertheless affect a S.W. bearing, a similar though smaller chain running in the same direction between the Teifi and the sea. The most lofty eminences in this group are the Tregaron Mount (1754 ft.) and Craig Twrch near

Lampeter. The sources of two of the finest rivers in S. Wales, the Towey and Teifi, are to be found in these hills, and that of the Aeron in the parallel range of Mynydd Bach.

All these are separated by the Ystwyth from the N. Cardiganshire mountains, amongst which Plynlimmon (2463 ft.) is the most conspicuous; indeed, physically speaking, these latter would seem to be placed by the deep valleys of the Ystwyth and Rheidol within the catalogue of N. Wallian hills. Besides these principal groups, there are of course many less important heights, which are alluded to or described in the respective routes.

II. Geology.

For the study of the *Lower Rocks* there is no more interesting country than the southern portion of the Principality, which offers frequent and instructive series. Of course a summary cannot attempt to take in detail the minutiæ of such an important and widely-spread subject; for them the geologist is referred to the 'Memoirs of the Geological Survey,' vol. ii., which contains a most valuable article by the late Sir H. De la Beche on the Formation of Rocks in S. Wales; the 2nd edition of 'Siluria,' by Sir R. Murchison; and various articles in the 'Geological Transactions' and 'Geologist Magazine.'

1. The most recent formation in S. Wales, excluding the alluvial and drift deposits (the latter of which may be observed at Pentyrch and Hensol near Llantrissant), is that of the *Lias.* A large portion of what is called the Vale of Glamorgan is composed of Lias rocks, resting in different localities on different bases, and overlying this district in a rather irregular manner. Though absent at many points, the Lias may be described in general terms as extending from near Cardiff to Pyle, where (and from this place to Bridgend) it reposes on the Triassic marls. From the mouth of the Ogmore to Cowbridge it is found resting on upturned and disturbed Carboniferous Limestone, and spreading out in a somewhat peninsular form past Colwinston to Ewenny. Near Southerndown (Rte. 1) and Dunraven it is well seen, lying horizontally on the upturned mountain-limestone, and again at the entrance of Cowbridge from Bridgend. At Llanblethian, a little to the S., the Carboniferous Limestone rises up abruptly, being enfolded on all sides by the Lias. Near Peterston-super-Ely it is observed resting on the Old Red. A good locality for studying these rocks is on the N. side of Barry Island, where they, together with the New Red marls, are tilted up by a fault. Detached outliers are found to the E. of Newport, resting upon the Old Red and capping the knolls on the rt. of the rly. at Llanwern, Lliswerry, and Bishton. The best points for the geologist and collector are Llanwern, Maindee near Newport, Penarth Head, and Lavernock Point near Cardiff, where the Lias rests on the Rhœtic or Penarth beds, as they are called in the Ordnance Maps Survey (see a very able paper by Mr. Etheridge, 'Cardiff Nat. History Soc. Transactions,' vol. 3, pt. 2), Southerndown, and the coast generally.

There are also some tolerably good quarries between Llandaff and St. Fagans, though, as a rule, Lias fossils in S. Wales are not abundant.

2. The *Triassic* series are not largely exposed, but may be examined in sections where they are found covered by Lias, such as Penarth Head. Superficially they form the level grounds in the neighbourhoods of Caldicot and Mathern, as also small patches at Peterston near St. Fagans, Coity, and from thence to Pyle.

3. The *Dolomitic* or *Permian Rocks* are considerably developed, and may generally be found occupying the slopes of the mountain-limestone hills. Small isolated patches are seen near Chepstow and Mathern, but the great bulk of this formation is in the district of Llandaff, Radyr, and St. Fagans, from whence a broad line, often interrupted either by a covering of Lias or a protrusion of Carboniferous Limestone, occupies the southern slopes of the hills for more or less of the entire distance to Kenfig Point. The most important and interesting locality for studying these rocks is at Llantrissant, Llanharan, and Llanharry, in connection with the hæmatite workings carried on at these places (Rte. 1). Permian deposits will also be found at Bonvilstone, Cowbridge, Coity, and along the southern slopes of Newton Downs. The dolomitic conglomerate at Newton Nottage has produced the dinosaurian footprints known as Brontozoum Thomasii. This is the only locality in Europe where they have been found. Splendid impressions can be seen in the Free Museum, Cardiff.

4. The *Carboniferous* System is extensively and beautifully observed in the great S. Wales coal-field, which is perhaps the most perfect and regular coal-basin in the whole world. In shape it is, strictly speaking, that of a pear, with the smaller end towards the W., its greatest length being from Pontypool to Kidwelly, about 70 m., while the greatest breadth is about 25 m., from Merthyr or Hirwain to Cardiff. The Pembrokeshire field is not included in this measurement, differing a good deal in the arrangement of beds and quality of coal, and being separated by a considerable interval of Old Red sandstone. The basin is bounded on the N., E., and N.W. by a tolerably uniform belt of mountain limestone and millstone grit, and on the S. partly by the waters of the Channel, beneath which, indeed, many coal-measures run, and partly by the interlacement of Liassic and Dolomitic rocks just described.

a. The *Mountain Limestone* on the N. extends from the Blorenge Mountain near Abergavenny, in a nearly straight line to Llandeilo, where it bears off S.W. to the sea-coast at Kidwelly, the average thickness being somewhat over 500 ft. There are also two conspicuous outliers, viz. Pen-carreg-calch near Crickhowel and Carreg-Cennen (on which the famous castle is built), giving proof of the immense amount of denudation that has taken place. From their superior height and rugged escarpments, the limestone hills of the N. crop present infinitely finer scenery than those on the S., which, as we have seen, are often obscured by Permian and Liassic deposits. From Pontypool southwards to Risca, and thence westward to Caerphilly and Pentyrch, the

limestone is uninterrupted; but S. of Llantrissant it becomes considerably covered up by the Dolomitic conglomerate, although large surfaces are exposed between Cowbridge, Penlline, and Llanharry to the N., and to Caerau on the E. It is again well seen between Bridgend and St. Bride's, as also forming the heights of Newton Down. Proceeding westward, these rocks are found to be increasing in thickness, as shown in the magnificent coast-range of Mumbles and the cliffs of Gower (Rte. 2), which attain a depth of about 1500 ft. Finally they reappear in S. Pembrokeshire, forming the S. border of that coal-field. It must not be inferred from what has been said, that the Pembrokeshire field does not belong to the main basin, either geologically or geographically, but it is thought more convenient to describe it separately; the mountain limestone, however, may be treated of at once. Like that of S. Glamorganshire, it appears at intervals, forming narrow bands across the country. One, very thin, extends from the coast near Amroth to Haverfordwest; a second from Tenby to Pembroke, through and parallel to which the old red sandstone of the Ridgeway rises up; and a third comprises the splendid coast-range of St. Gowan's Head and the Stack Rocks. The geologist will be at no loss to obtain sections either here or in any other portion of the field; nor, generally speaking, will he fail in obtaining good typical fossils. The best localities may be briefly pointed out: Llanelly, Llangattock, Trefil near Tredegar, Castle Morlais, Penderyn, Dinas Craig, on the N. crop; Caerphilly, Castell Coch, Llantrissant, Mumbles, Worm's Head, Tenby, and Caldy Island, on the S. border. The rocks on the N. are universally worked to supply the furnaces of the ironworks; but on the S. the discovery of the hæmatite ores at Pentyrch and Llantrissant has given them an additional value.

β. The *Millstone Grit* may well be studied over the whole of the N. crop of the S. Wales basin. It lies over the mountain limestone, and forms a table-land with a southerly inclination, from which most of the rivers of the coal-field take their rise, to run due S. to the Bristol Channel. The junction of these beds with the mountain limestone is marked by a quartzose conglomerate, locally called pudding-stone. On the S. crop the millstone grit soon disappears near Pentyrch. There are, however, beds at Bishopston in Gower (Rte. 2), known as the Black Shales of Gower, which attain a considerable thickness. Their position is somewhat obscure, but it is not improbable that they belong partly to the millstone grit series and partly to that of the (locally named) Farewell Rock, which is almost universally found in this basin underlying the coal measures and lying on the millstone grit. It is so called because the colliers consider that there is no coal worth working in this rock, though in some places rather valuable seams are found. Along the whole of the N. crop this Farewell Rock series is remarkable for being the horizon of a marine-shell bed (coal and ironstone), which was traced by the writer for upwards of 60 m. It may be examined at Beaufort, Rhymney Gate, Pont-Neath-Vaughan (Rte. 10), and Cwm Amman (Rte. 21).

γ. The *Coal Measures* are of the greatest thickness near Neath, where the lowest strata are 700 fathoms below the outcrop of the upper ones in the hilly districts. They can be best examined on the N. crop, for the reason that the "basseting" or inclination towards the crop is of a more gentle character than it is on the S., where the beds emerge at a very steep angle of inclination. The area of the coal-field is estimated at about 640,000 acres, the thickness of the workable coal differing in different places, viz. at Merthyr about 55 ft., on the N.E. crop 35, and on the S. outcrop upwards of 100 ft. The lower measures are best seen in Monmouthshire, Breconshire, and N. Glamorganshire, and the upper measures in the centre of Glamorgan and Caermarthenshire. Although the basin is so uniform externally, it is by no means so in its interior arrangements, as there is an enormous saddle or anticlinal line running E. and W. from Newbridge in the valley of the Ebbw, to Pontypridd, Maesteg, and Llanelly in Caermarthenshire. A little S. of this is another smaller anticlinal axis, and between the two a deep trough. The upper measures in E. Glamorgan and Monmouthshire comprise the bituminous coals used for domestic cooking and gas purposes, while the lower measures are those which have been pre-eminent as the smokeless steam coal of S. Wales—the first quality for maritime purposes in the world.

In the centre of Glamorganshire the veins are much more disturbed, and the upper measures are worked in the Rhondda and Ely valleys, as also at Llanelly in Caermarthenshire, where the very highest beds of the whole series are to be found. The middle coal-measures, known as *Pennant Grits* or sandstones, form a marked feature over the whole of the basin, as they almost invariably cap the long narrow ridges of hill which run from the millstone grit table due S. In the N.E. portion of the district they are comparatively worthless, only a few thin veins being found; but they attain greater importance near Swansea, being upwards of 2000 ft. in thickness, and, according to Sir W. Logan, containing in the Town Hill 12 seams of coal.

One of the most interesting features in the basin is the chemical change that takes place in the coal, making enormous differences both in its value and practical uses.

This change is the conversion of bituminous or free-burning coal to anthracite or stone-coal, and is so gradual in its operation that it is difficult to fix the precise spot where it commences. It is first observed to any extent at Rhymney, and gradually increases westward towards Merthyr and the Taff valley. Beyond Hirwain, at the ironworks of Onllwyn, it is so far completed that the coals which at Rhymney were all bituminous are now all anthracitic, and this peculiarity obtains through the Swansea valley to the very extremity of the coal-field. With regard to the cause geologists are not agreed, some considering it to be purely chemical and still in operation, others with more probability regarding it only as a result of past igneous action arising from the proximity of trap rocks to the coal-measures. The chief chemical difference consists in the great increase of carbon—the

bituminous coal of Ebbwvale in the E. of the field containing about 85 per cent., while that of the Swansea valley has 93 per cent. Apart from the value of the various coal-measures to the different ironworks, the seams which are of the greatest commercial importance, are the steam coals of the Aberdare and Rhondda valley, which from their cleanly and smokeless qualities are used in vast quantities by the Admiralty.

The geologist can frequently obtain good fossils of the carboniferous era. Ferns are plentiful in many localities, particularly in the N. crop, while several seams furnish shells (marine or brackish water), and fish remains (vide articles in 'Geologist').

The *Pembrokeshire coal or culm field* is wholly anthracitic and extremely contorted. It would seem that the lateral pressure which acted over the whole of the coal-field came from the S.W., and produced its greatest effect on that portion of the country, gradually weakening as it diverged from the centre. There are some valuable collieries at Bonville's Court, Saundersfoot, and Kilgetty near Tenby, besides some small ones at Nolton in the northern field, which is surrounded on either side by a Silurian and trap rocks.

The iron-ores, which are associated with the coal-beds, are described in Article III.

5. The *Old Red Sandstone* occupies a considerable area, for the most part surrounding the coal-basin on all sides but the S., and comprising a large portion of Breconshire, Monmouthshire, and Herefordshire. This area, however, has been subjected to enormous denudation, for the effects of which we may take as an example the valley of the Usk, in which the softer marls have been worn away, leaving the upper and harder beds of conglomerate comparatively untouched, and standing prominently forward. "Thus the country towards Leominster, Bromyard, and Hereford is chiefly formed of the marl series with its corn-stones, while the Black Mountain heights, such as Peneader, Penalltmawr, &c., and the Vans of Brecon, are crowned by hard sandstones and conglomerates in slightly inclined beds, the remains, no doubt, of those which once covered the marls to a greater extent northward." To the E. of Pontypool the Old Red is interrupted by the Silurian elevation of Usk, which stretches from near Raglan to some few miles below the town of Usk (Rte. 5). On the S. of the coal-field these rocks are visible between Newport and Cardiff, from whence they range westward, passing beneath a higher arch of carboniferous limestone near Cowbridge.

A narrow strip of Old Red is observable at the W. of the coal-field, separating it from the Silurian rocks; and, again, in S. Pembrokeshire, alternating with bands of Silurian and Carboniferous rocks. The lower marls and Cornstones have, to a certain extent, disappeared as they travel westward. In Breconshire and Herefordshire, bands of cornstones are frequently met with, and have proved, especially in the latter county, very productive of Old Red fish remains. The following are the best localities for the geologist:—For Cornstones and Brownstones,

near Abergavenny; the Scyrrid; Pontrilas; Bwlch between Crickhowel and Brecon; the Daren above Crickhowel, where are to be found the equivalents in position of the Dura Den Bed in Fifeshire; the Vans; the Sawdde near Llangadock, where there is a junction with upper Ludlow rocks; between Freshwater and West Angle Bay; Caldy Island and Hook Point, in Pembrokeshire, where the Old Red is seen to overlie the Silurian strata.

6. The greatest portion of S. Wales is occupied by the *Silurian rocks*, which are so characteristic of the country as to have given name to the Silurian system, the most important and perfectly elaborated system of modern geologists.

a. The *Tilestones*, which form the uppermost layer of the whole system, and are a transition between the Silurian and Old Red rocks, are visible "along the whole of the eastern frontier of the Silurian rocks" (particularly from Kington to the Trewern Hills on the Wye), and furnish many beautiful typical fossils. The geologist should not fail to visit the localities of Bradnor Hill near Kington (Rte. 18), and Horeb Chapel in Cwm Dwr, between Trecastle and Llandovery (Rte. 13).

β. The *Ludlow rocks*, Upper and Lower, constitute a large area, extending from Knighton and Presteign in a S.-westerly direction, and, in fact, comprising the greatest portion of the county of Radnor. The upper rocks may be traced along the eastward slopes of Bradnor and Hergest Hills, near Kington, and from thence to the Trewern Hills, near Clyro on the Wye. From thence a narrow prolongation is thrown out into the very heart of Breconshire.

Both Upper and Lower Ludlow are finely exposed in the escarpments of Mynydd Epynt and Bwlch-y-groes, where they rise from underneath the Old Red in a rapid anticlinal flexure at Alt-fawr and Corn-y-fan. Their junction with the Old Red can be well seen at Cwm Dwr, and on the banks of the Sawdde, near Llangadock. From thence to the mouth of the Towey these rocks gradually become a thin band, everywhere surmounted by Old Red. It is remarkable that the middle division, or Aymestry limestone, soon thins out after leaving Ludlow, and in Radnorshire entirely disappears. The ravine of Water-break-its-neck, near Radnor (Rte. 18), shows good successions from the Wenlock limestone, through the Ludlow rocks up to their junction with the Old Red. They are again visible in S. Pembrokeshire at Lampeter Velfrey, near Narberth, and forming cliffs on the sea-coast at Marloes Bay to the N., and Freshwater to the S. of Milford Haven. The Usk valley of elevation, too, must not be omitted, where the Ludlow rocks rest upon Wenlock limestone, and are very fossiliferous.

The Ludlow beds are developed to a thickness of about 400 feet at Penylau and the village of Rumney, near Cardiff. At Tymawr quarry, near there, the first specimens of fossil wood were found which showed definite woody structure, and the finest specimens of *Pachytheca sphærica* ever found are from the same quarry; this is the earliest known fossil fruit. About 200 yards west of Rumney Church a quarry in the Wenlock limestone abounds with beautifully preserved corals,

tinged a delicate pinkish red, the Matrix so red that the Geological Survey mapped them at first as Old Red sandstone. The thickness of the Wenlock beds is here about 550 feet.

γ. The *Wenlock limestone* "thins out entirely in Radnorshire, and is scarcely to be recognised in the counties of Caermarthen, Brecon, and Pembroke; its place being only marked in the cliffs of Marloes Bay, near Milford Haven, by some fossils, and a small quantity of impure limestone immersed in grey and sandy shale." The lower member of this series, the Woolhope limestone, is observed at Corton, near Presteign, to be subordinate to a black shale, which rests on Pentamerus grit. The Wenlock series is a very prominent feature in the Usk valley of elevation.

δ. The *Upper Llandovery Rock* is observed in Radnorshire at Corton, in the form of the Pentamerus bed just alluded to, as also on the western slopes of the hill of Old Radnor, and again to the W. of Builth, resting unconformably on Llandeilo flags. The best spot, by far, for examining these Llandovery rocks is in the tract extending from the river Sawdde to the N.E. of Llandovery, and particularly in the heights of Noeth Grug, where both zones are observed conformable in one united mass, and with clear relations to the superior and inferior strata.

ϵ. The *Caradoc* or *Bala formation* comprises the vast area of slaty and schistose rocks in the counties of N. Caermarthen and Cardigan, in which occur the lead-mines of Nant-y-Mwyn, and the gold-mines of Gogofau, near Llandovery (Rte. 19). On the l. bank of the Towey, and especially at Cilgwyn Park, a good succession may be seen of Llandeilo flags, surmounted by beds full of Caradoc fossils, and gradually ascending into the Pentamerus beds of the Llandovery rocks. The same rocks are again observed, though to a small extent, in Pembrokeshire, at Lampeter Velfrey, and Sholeshook, near Haverfordwest.

η. The Llandeilo formation plays an important part in the district which extends from Builth to Llandegley and Llandrindod, and again at Llanwrtyd Wells, at all which localities it is abundantly associated with igneous rocks. They are best developed in the neighbourhood of Llandeilo (Rte. 19), where they emerge from beneath the Caradoc series. In Pembrokeshire the beds are not of so calcareous a character as they are in Caermarthenshire: here they are found at Lampeter Velfrey, as also forming a portion of the cliffs at Musselwick Bay near Haverfordwest. The best localities for obtaining fossils are Wellfield, near Builth, Llandeilo, Golden Grove, and Mount Pleasant near Caermarthen.

Below these rocks the scantily fossiliferous beds, the Lingula flags, are observable only at Whitesand Bay, near St. David's Head, in which the Lingula Davisii occurs. Here also are small patches of Longmynd, or Cambrian formation. Igneous rocks, though not so abundant as in N. Wales, are to be met with in many districts, as the eruptive rocks of Stanner near Kington (Rte. 18), Carneddau Mountains near Builth, Esgair Davydd, and the hills round Llanwrtyd, the island of Skomer, and portions of the coast of the neighbouring mainland, as well as the

wild picturesque cliffs of St. David's and Strumble Heads. To the geological student touring in S. Wales, Mr. W. S. Symonds' 'Records of the Rocks' will prove an invaluable travelling companion.

III. Manufactures and Products

may be classed under four heads—viz. *Coal*, *Iron*, *Copper*, and *Lead*.

1. Coal.—The geological formation of the South Wales coal-field, the arrangement of the measures, and the changes from bituminous to anthracite coal, are described in pages ix–xi; it therefore only remains to give a brief summary of its commercial importance. The value of the coal of the district having apparently been recognised later than that of the ironstone, the principal output of the collieries, for many years, was applied to the manufacture of iron, notably at such centres as the works of Hirwain, Aberdare, Cyfarthfa, Dowlais, Rhymney, Tredegar, Sirhowy, Ebbw Vale, and Nantyglo. The extraordinary superiority of the Welsh coal over any other known fuel has, however, been so steadily demonstrated within the last thirty years as to obtain for it an almost complete monopoly for marine purposes, and to turn the attention, not only of the iron producers, but of fresh capitalists to the development of these steam coals.

An idea of the rapid growth of the trade in these coals will be obtained from the following table of shipments from Cardiff, Swansea, and Newport, to foreign parts, in 1877 and 1887, respectively,

	1877.	1887.
Cardiff . . .	3,681,084 tons	7,532,640 tons.
Newport . . .	611,156 „	2,293,276 „
Swansea . . .	653,630 „	869,019 „
	4,945,870	10,694,935

The exports, coastwise, and the vast inland trade by rail have also increased in a corresponding ratio.

The total number of collieries in the district is about 500, and the annual output therefrom about 25,000,000 tons. The valleys supplying, up to the present, the special class of coal, which has thus made S. Wales pre-eminent, are those of Aberdare, Merthyr, Rhondda, Rhymney, Ebbw Vale and Nantyglo; while the recent developments westwards in the Ely, Ogmore, and Garw Valleys prove that the same, or a similar quality, extends in that direction.

The physical features which render the Welsh coal superior to any other are its freedom from smoke, high evaporative power, rapidity in lighting, and small yield of ash, all of which adapt it for the firing of such boilers as are at present used. So long as the supply can be maintained, little effort will probably be made by the invention of suitable boilers to utilize the vast resources of anthracite in the western portion

of the coal field, which, with the exception of a limited quantity exported to France, is in little demand at present. Of late years the small coal of many of the large collieries has, after washing, been converted into coke with a certain admixture of the coking coal from the upper veins, and, in the case of certain of the more bituminous steam coals towards the south of the Rhondda Valley, excellent coke is made of the small coal alone.

2. Iron.—The principal ironworks are situated on or towards the north crops of the coal-basin, or else at a locality, such as Maesteg, where the lower measures are raised near the surface by an anticlinal line, or axis. The perpendicular depth of the coal and iron bearing strata is 11,000 feet in the northern, and 8000 feet in the southern trough. The ironstone is found interstratified with the coal measures, and generally accompanying them, in the form of "pins," or thin bands, frequently highly coloured with peroxide-layers of greater thickness occurring in rock, and round nodules of ironstone disseminated at unequal distances through beds of shale and rock. These nodules are generally rich in percentage of iron, containing sometimes in the interstices small brilliant crystals and sometimes impressions of plants. The great practical division of the ironstones is into argillaceous or clay ironstones, and carbonaceous or blackband; the constituent substances of the latter being carbonate of iron, carbonaceous matter, alumina, and silica, with a trace of lime. Brown hæmatite iron ore—hydrated sesquioxide of iron—is also found in the mountain limestone of the southern outcrop at Pentyrch, but has been little worked.

It is advisable to give a brief account of the mode of manufacture, although, for particulars, the traveller is referred to Dr. Percy's work on Iron and Steel.

The three materials necessary for the reduction of ore and the production of pig-iron are coal or coke, ironstone or iron ore, and limestone. The coal is usually, though not always, converted into coke by burning it in ovens, and in some cases is coked in long heaps in the open air. The ironstone, which may consist of the argillaceous nodules, blackband, hæmatite, or, in fact, any variety, is roasted before it is taken to the furnace, for the purpose of getting rid of the carbonic acid, earthy matter, and impurities necessarily found with it; while the water is evaporated without being decomposed, for were the raw iron ore to be subjected to the intense heat of the furnace, the water and acid would be instantly decomposed, the oxygen would unite with the iron, and part of it would oxygenate the sulphur, which would have the effect of producing iron quite unworkable from the great quantity of oxygen in combination. Like the coking of coal, this roasting causes the mass to lose greatly in weight, commonly about 35 per cent.

Of late years the native argillaceous ironstone and blackband of the South Wales coal field has been superseded by the gradual adoption of the brown hæmatite iron ores of Spain, which, from about the year 1872, have been imported in vast quantities to Newport and Cardiff and supplied to all the iron-works of the district. The richness and cheap-

ness of these, as compared with that of the local iron-stones and the iron ore of Dean Forest, have led to the almost entire closing of the mines of the latter, and the exclusive use of Spanish ore and some of the richer red hæmatite ores of Cumberland. Over 1,000,000 tons of Spanish ore are imported annually to the ports of Cardiff and Newport alone.

The ore and the coke being thus fully prepared, are taken to the top of the furnace, into which they are thrown in certain "charges" or proportions, together with one of limestone, the object being to present to the metal of the ore sufficient fuel, at a great heat, to take up the oxygen, and also that the limestone may serve as a flux to facilitate the separation by uniting with the earthy portions of the ore.

The furnace is a large cupola-shaped building about sixty-five feet high, with openings at the top and bottom, the latter of which is called the hearth or fireplace, and the former the tunnel-head. The interior, though hollow, is not even all the way up, but contracts a little above the hearth and again near the top, the greatest width being termed "the boshes." The furnace is kept alive by the blast, blown in at a certain temperature by a steam-engine, which finds admittance at the hearth by means of tubes or pipes called "tuyères." The charge is put in at the top and exposed to the action of the fire for eight hours, at the end of which time the metal is reduced and collected into a dam or reservoir at the bottom of the furnace.

As soon as it rises to the level of the dam an opening is made, and the molten iron runs out in a fiery jubilee, lighting up the nooks and crannies of the casting-yard with wonderful effects that only a Rembrandt could paint. Before it is tapped, channels or moulds of sand are made for it to run into, and when cold, it is taken up under the well-known name of "pigs," the principal channel being dignified with the name of the "sow." The pig or cast-iron is in the state of a carburet of iron; the ore having been an oxide, the hydrogen and carbonic oxide formed during the progress of combustion remove the oxygen from the ore, which thus becomes carburetted.

The slag or scoriæ which have accumulated during the reduction are allowed to flow into a tram, from which they are emptied when cold in square vitreous-looking masses, giving the place in which they are deposited the aspect of a burnt-out volcano. Even this refuse, however, has been turned to account, for it is used for the foundation and metalling of roads, &c.; indeed an association called the Patent Slag Company was formed (though it was not a commercial success) for working it up into articles of domestic use, such as bottles, tables, &c. At many works the gases escape from the top of the furnace, causing, by their combustion, a magnificent body of flame; but in others the top of the furnace is closed by an appliance known as the cup and cone, and the waste gases conducted to the boilers (and also used in heating the air prior to its entering the furnace) of the blast engine, thus effecting a double economy.

An important item in the smelting of iron is the blast, which may

be used in two ways—with hot or cold air. Until 1830 the cold blast was in universal employment, but since then the former has gained ground, for the reason that a cold current of air passed into the furnace at great pressure cools the fuel below the temperature necessary to effect the union of the carbon of the fuel with the oxygen of the air; but the hot air is forced upon it in a condition favourable to its uniting immediately, causing instant and vivid combustion. The usual temperature of the hot blast ranges from 1000° to 1400° Fahr. Cast iron is a carburet of iron, which, when wrought, is decarburetted, becoming more tenacious, and having the property of welding at a great heat. This process, however, is become almost, if not entirely, obsolete. Since the perfection of the Bessemer process, and the production at such cheap rates of steel rails, a revolution in the iron trade set in, and within the last 15 years all the principal iron-works of the district have been remodelled and applied to the manufacture of steel. The price of steel rails soon became less than those of iron, and at the present time practically no others are used.

The production of steel depends upon the reduction in the proportion of carbon in cast iron to the requisite point. This is effected under the Bessemer process by conveying molten cast iron into a large vessel lined with fire-clay, or other refractory substance, and which is called the "Bessemer Converter," capable of holding about 10 tons. By means of tuyères, a blast of atmospheric air is passed through this molten metal, the chemical effect of which is to drive off the carbon contained in the mass. The proper proportion of carbon required is then supplied in the form of spiegeleisen, a special variety of cast iron containing a large proportion of carbon as well as manganese, which latter is also an important ingredient in the manufacture of steel. The spiegeleisen is introduced in a molten state, and as soon as it is thoroughly diffused, the converter is tilted, and the molten metal poured into a ladle, from which it is again cast into sand-moulds in the form of steel ingots.

The following table will show the number and make of the furnaces in South Wales in 1740:—

Breconshire . . .	2;	making	600 tons.
Glamorganshire . .	2;	„	400 „
Caermarthenshire . .	1;	„	100 „
Monmouthshire . .	2;	„	900 „
			2000

As long as charcoal was used for smelting, there was no occasion for any great blast power; consequently the earliest means in use was a bellows worked by hand or water. But when the coal became available, the blast was obliged to be increased, the earliest contrivance being a forcing-pump or a steam-engine. The number of coal furnaces then gradually increased, so that in 1788 the number of tons of iron turned out in Breconshire and Glamorganshire was 8200. In 1790 the large

and powerful engines made by Watt came into requisition, whereupon the trade increased, and the number of furnaces amounted in 1796 to 25, and in 1806 to 39, producing 78,000 tons per annum.

During the past century, and especially since the advent of railways, and the general application of steam-power to every branch of industry, the iron trade of South Wales has naturally made enormous strides, culminating, as above stated, in the larger make of steel, the following being an approximate list of the converters in work in the district with capacities ranging from 6 to 10 tons each :—

Cyfarthfa	2
Blaenavon	2
Dowlais	6
Ebbw Vale	6
Rhymney	5
Tredegar	2
	23

The number of blast furnaces in operation and the total make of pig iron yearly in the South Wales district is shown approximately in the following table :—

	Furnaces in blast.	Iron ore used.	Pig iron made.	Coal used.
Glamorganshire.	20	660,000	350,000	650,000
Monmouthshire .	21	800,000	440,000	900,000
	41	1,460,000	790,000	1,550,000

3. Copper.—The copper trade of S. Wales is far from being of the same importance as the iron trade, which is extended over the whole coal-field, while the former is limited to a small portion of it. There is also this difference, that iron is a produce of the district in which it is worked, whereas the copper has to be brought to this country to be smelted, partly from Cornwall, partly from Chili, Valparaiso, and Australia. The principal works are in the neighbourhood of Swansea, Neath, Aberavon, and Llanelly, though the ore is mostly sold at the former town at public "ticketings." Of late years the total yearly quantity of copper ore, regulus, and old copper for re-manufacture, imported into the S. Wales ports is over 100,000 tons. The process of preparing the copper does not present the bustle and activity, nor the glare and brilliancy, of an iron-work. The visitor who glides over the bridge over the Tawe at Llandore will be at once struck with the peculiarly melancholy, lurid scene that presents itself whenever the thick vapours roll away.

The ore is first of all put into a reverberatory furnace to be calcined and exposed to an intense heat, in order to disengage the sulphur and other volatile impurities. The calcined and cooled ore is then transferred to a second furnace, in which the metallic oxides and earthy matters float on the surface of the metal, and are skimmed off as slag,

the melted copper being allowed to flow off into a pit of water, where it becomes granulated in cooling. Of such value is the metal considered, that even the slag is taken back to the yard and carefully broken up to see if any particles of copper are left behind; if this is the case, it is again melted. As a great deal of sulphur is still to be found in the metal, it is again melted in a third and fourth furnace, and then run into pigs, which are taken to the roasting furnace; the sulphur, which hitherto has been retained in just sufficient quantities to protect the metal from oxidization, being now eliminated as rapidly as possible. The last process is refining, after which the copper is ready for the market in any shape that may be required. The smoke and vapour which is disengaged from these works is of the most nauseous and disagreeable kind, and apparently most pernicious to vegetation, as the traveller cannot but notice in looking up the Vale of Tawe. It does not, however, appear to affect human life or health, as the workmen and those who dwell in the manufactories appear to enjoy both in a remarkable manner. The chemical constituents of the vapour are sulphurous acid, which is most abundant and penetrating, sulphuric acid, arsenic, both in the metallic form and as arsenious acid, and fluoric compounds, perhaps in the shape of hydrofluoric acid.

The copper-smelting trade (putting aside all conjectures as to Roman workings, &c.) was first begun in Cornwall in 1670, but the absence of coal, and the expense of bringing it thither, soon caused the transferring of the works to Clifton near Bristol. A Mr. Coster was part owner and manager of this establishment, as also of one at Redbrook on the Wye. Subsequently the trade was removed to Aberavon, where it still exists, as it has done at Swansea, from an early part of the last century.

4. Lead.—The principal mines where this valuable ore is worked are in the slaty Lower Silurian rocks in Caermarthenshire and Cardiganshire. Traces of lead, and sometimes remains of old workings, are found also in the southern carboniferous limestone-range of the coal-field; but little or none is obtained at present. Tokens of mining are apparent everywhere near Aberystwyth, particularly on the road to Plynlimmon and near the Devil's Bridge.

5. Patent Fuel.—There is also a large manufacture of patent fuel, which is principally carried on at Swansea and Cardiff. It consists of a preparation of culm and tar, compressed by machinery into the form of a brick, and is largely used for shipping purposes. About 500,000 tons are yearly exported from Swansea and Cardiff.

IV. Communications.

To meet the requirements of the manufacturing districts, of late years a large number of railways and canals have been constructed, and S. Wales is now intersected by the former as copiously as any English county. The canals, which in the early part of the century were almost the only means of conveying the traffic of the manufacturing

districts, are now almost entirely superseded by the railways and docks.

The rlys. consist of—1. The trunk line of the Great Western Co. between Gloucester and Milford Haven (Rtes. 1 and 2), which is joined by (2) the Hereford, Ross, and Gloucester (Rte. 3). 3. The Forest of Dean Rly. at Awre. 4. The Bristol and South Wales branch of the G. W. R. viâ the Severn Tunnel (Rte. 1). 5. The Great Western narrow-gauge from Hereford to Newport, now considerably shortened betwixt Pontypool and Newport by an improved rte. viâ Caerleon (Rte. 4). 6. The Monmouthshire lines to Ebbw Vale, Nantyglo (Rte. 7), and Blaenafon (Rte. 6). 7. The Sirhowy and Tredegar line (Rte. 8). 8. The Newport, Dowlais, and Brecon (Rte. 9). 9. The Taff Vale (Rte. 15). 10. The Rhymney line (Rte. 14). 11. The Llynfi Valley at Bridgend and to Porthcawl (Rte. 1). 12. The Great Western by the Vale of Neath from Pontypool Road to Neath (Rte. 10). 13. The Neath and Brecon (Rte. 13). 14. The Swansea Valley (Rte. 20). 15. The Central Wales from Craven Arms to Swansea and Caermarthen (Rte. 19). 16. The Oystermouth rly. (Rte. 2). 17. The Llanelly rly. to Llandovery (Rte. 21). 17. The Caermarthen and Cardigan as far as Llandyssil and the Whitland and Cardigan (Rte. 23). 18. Manchester and Milford (Rte. 22). 19. Tenby and Pembroke (Rte. 24). In addition to these there are—20. The Hereford, Hay, and Brecon (Rte. 16); the Kingston and Eardisley, connecting the Kington and Leominster rly. with the H. H. & B., and leading to an extension line from Kington to New Radnor, as well as to a branch from Titley to Presteign. 21. The Mid-Wales (Rte. 17), which, with the Central Wales, places South Wales in connection with the north of England; and 22. The Abergavenny and Merthyr (Rte. 11). Both the great systems of the London and North-Western and the Great Western thus have access to the Welsh works, collieries, and shipping ports, and places them in direct communication with the principal markets.

V. Antiquarian View.

Of the many interesting antiquities with which South Wales abounds, the most striking and characteristic are those primeval remains of the early inhabitants, such as Cromlechs and Inscribed Stones. As in many parts of Devon and Cornwall, traces of the Celt are frequently evident, and sometimes in a very perfect state. The *stone circles* are occasionally to be found, though seldom of any great size. They consist of a number of stones disposed around a central pillar, in a ring of varying size, and were doubtless connected with the rude worship of the early inhabitants. Good examples are at Carn Llechart in the Swansea Valley, on Cefn Bryn, Gower, the Preseley mountains, at Bedd Taliesin near Aberystwyth, and on the mountain above Trecastle, &c.

Cromlechs are numerous, although few are very perfect, owing to the destructive tendencies of the ignorant farmers, who have frequently

broken up the slabs to serve for wall-copings or gate-posts. The cromlech was formerly thought to be used in the sacrificial rites of the Druidic priests, but it is now generally allowed that they were sepulchral monuments, designed to mark the resting-place of some great warrior or chieftain. The greatest number of cromlechs, as well as those in the best preservation, are met with in Pembrokeshire, which, perhaps from its comparative isolation, abounds more than any other part of South Wales in primeval remains. The principal ones in this county are Newport, Llech-y-Drybedd on Tre-icert farm near Nevern, Pentre-Evan, Longhouse near Trevine, Mathry, St. Nicholas, Llanwnda, Trellys, and Ffynondruidian, the last four in the peninsula of Strumble Head (Rte. 25). There are others at St. Nicholas, Dyffryn, in Glamorganshire (Rte. 1), St. Lythans, on the same estate, Dolwilym, near Llanboidy in the W. of Caermarthenshire, besides Arthur's Stone on Cefn Bryn, Gower (Rte. 2); in Herefordshire, near Moccas Court (Rte. 16); and in Monmouthshire, at Newchurch, between Caerwent and Usk. In this category may be included the Buckstone * near Monmouth (Rte. 5), which, though no cromlech, but a natural curiosity, was an object of high veneration. Another Rocking-stone, the Maen Chwyf, in Glamorganshire, near Ponty-y-pridd, is by tradition reckoned Druidical.

The "*Maen-hir*" (plural, *meini-hirion*), or upright stones, are very common all over South Wales. Whether they were used to denote burial-places, or scenes of battle, or some particular event, does not appear clear; the supposition that they were placed as boundaries appears improbable, as they are commonly found on the most barren ranges of hills. In similar localities the *cairns* or "*carneddau*" are met with, studding the summits of the mountains with their grey heaps of stones. The cairns and the tumulus or "barrow" undoubtedly mark the places of interment of warriors or chiefs, whose burying-places were thus rudely perpetuated to posterity. There are several tumuli on the Preseley hills, and also on the Ridgeway between Tenby and Pembroke. Most of the Welsh tumuli have at different times been opened and found to contain a "Kistvaen" or stone chest, in which is an urn filled with ashes.

South Wales is particularly rich in *inscribed stones*, which were used to denote not only the place of interment, but also the name of the buried person. In some cases, too, sculpture has been added to the name. They date from the Roman era, and continued in use for some time subsequent to it. The antiquary who is interested in inscribed stones and crosses should consult the papers of Mr. Westwood in the 'Archæologia Cambrensis.'

The following are the principal stones worth visiting. In Breconshire, the Maen Llia on the Brecon and Ystradfellte road (Rte. 10), and near it the sculptured stone of Dervacus or Maen Madoc; the Maen-y-Morwynion or Maiden Stone, at the Gaer near Brecon (Rte. 13); the sculptured stone at Llandevailog near Brecon; in Llanspyddid church-

* See Nicholls' 'Forest of Dean,'—a very instructive little book, by a late worthy clergyman.

yard; at Llanynis near Builth; in the wall of Defynnock church; in the wall of Ystradgunlais church (Rte. 20); the Victorinus Stone at Bwlch; in Glanusk Park; the Catacus Stone in Cwmdu church wall; those of Peregrinus and Valens at Tretower; and the Turpilian Stone at Crickhowel (Rte. 12). In Glamorganshire are the stones on the Gellygaer Mountain near Merthyr Tydfil; that of Arthen in Merthyr church wall (Rte. 15); the Ogham Stone at Kenfig (Rte. 1); and the Brancyf Stone at Baglan church near Port Talbot; besides some others in the vicinity of Aberafon. In Cardiganshire—in Llanarth church near Aberaeron (Rte. 25), and the Virgin's Stone near Lampeter. In Caermarthenshire—the Eidon Stone at Golden Grove. Pembrokeshire—at Caldy Island, at Cilgerran church, and that of Sagrannus at St. Dogmael's Priory. In connection with them may be mentioned the wheel sculptured *crosses* at Margam Abbey and Llantwit churchyard, Glamorganshire. Of a different type, but of a much more beautiful kind, are the slender elevated crosses in St. Donat's, Carew, and Nevern churchyards.

British roads and boundaries are few, although it is very probable that many of the Roman roads followed the course of the British trackways. The Via Flandrica or Fford Fleming is the best defined example, extending from near Roch Castle to the village of Ambleston in Pembrokeshire. Offa's Dyke is in many places very perfect, and can be well examined in the neighbourhood of Knighton, and from thence by Kington to Bridge Sollars on the Wye. It is unlikely that it served any other purpose than a line of demarcation.

Many of the Roman stations of South Wales have had their position definitely fixed, while some are still rather conjectural.

Blestium	was	Monmouth. (?)	Bullæum	was	Builth.
Burrium	„	Usk.	Leucarum	„	Loughor.
Gobannium	„	Abergavenny.	Maridunum	„	Caermarthen.
Magna	„	Kenchester.	Menapia	„	St. David's.
Tibia Amnis	„	Cardiff. (?)	Loventium	„	Llanio, nr. Tregaron.
Bannium	„	Gaer, near Brecon.	Ad Vicesimum	„	near Ambleston.
Nidum	„	Neath.	Isca Silurum	„	Caerleon.
Bovium	„	Cowbridge (?)	Venta Silurum	„	Caerwent.

There were also Roman stations at Llanfair-y-bryn, near Llandovery, and Caerfagu, near Rhayader. Traces of the Via Julia, which ran between Aqua Solis (Bath) and Menapia, are visible at Caerwent, Caerleon, near Tredegar Park, Newport, and in Pembrokeshire, between Menapia and Roche Castle. The actual point of crossing the Bristol Channel has always been a source of dispute amongst antiquaries, but the probability is that it was close to the New Passage and at Caldecot Pier, where it was protected by the camp at Sudbrook. The Sarn Helen or Sarn Lleon, connected Nidum with Bannium, the station at Llanfair-y-bryn, Loventium, and eventually Deva (Chester). It can be traced on the hills above Rheola, in the Vale of Neath, and from thence to the Maen Llia near Ystradfellte; again at Llanfair-y-bryn,

and crossing the hills near Lampeter to Llanio. A road is also visible from Caerfagu up the vale of the Clywedog to Abbey-cwm-hir, and from thence through the pass of Bwlch-y-sarnau to Caersws. The Roman towns of Caerleon and Caerwent are described in Rte. 1, and a mine of information about them is to be found in Mr. J. C. Lee's 'Isca Silurum.' Traces of roads are also to be found at Cayo, and from thence to the Gogofau mines, which, it is well known, were worked by the Romans for gold (Rte. 19).

Camps are numerous in every part of the country, for there is scarcely a height that does not possess some tokens of defence or intrenchment, showing how fiercely and repeatedly the ground was disputed inch by inch. The following are the principal camps that may be examined: Monmouthshire — Sudbrook near Chepstow, Coed-y-Bunedd, Gaer Fawr, and others near Usk; in Herefordshire—Caer Caradoc, Gaer, Wapley Hill, Croft Ambury, and Coxwall Knoll, in the neighbourhood of Knighton and Kington; Dinedor, Kenchester, and Eaton Bishop near Hereford, Doward near Monmouth, and Mouse Castle near Hay; Breconshire—Craig Hywel on the Table Mountain, Crickhowel, Miarth near Glanusk, Slwch near Brecon; in Caermarthenshire—at Carn Goch near Llandeilo; in Glamorganshire—Harding Down (very perfect) in Gower; and in Pembrokeshire, at St. David's Head and Dinas Head. The British and Roman forts at Penlan, close to St. David's, should also be visited.

The *Mediæval* remains are numerous, though, perhaps, not so much so as might be expected, considering the extent of the country. As they are described more or less in the respective routes, it will be sufficient here to show, under general headings, the various kinds of antiquarian buildings. They may be divided into—

1. Military—such as the *Castles* of Pembroke, Cilgerran, Llawhaw-dden, Llanstephan, Kidwelly, Aberystwyth, Chepstow, Newport, Caldecot, Raglan, White Castle, Caerphilly, &c., with a long list of others in more or less preservation. Some of them, however, such as Manorbeer, must be looked upon more in the light of a castle residence than as an exclusively military building.

2. Monastic—such as Tintern, Monkton, St. Dogmael's, Strata Florida, Ewenny, Neath, Llanthony, and Talley abbeys.

3. Ruined chapels—as St. Gowan's, St. Tecla's, the Nun's, and St. Justinian's chapel near St. David's.

4. Domestic remains—*α*. Ecclesiastical, as Moynes Court, Lamphey, St. David's Palace, Llanddew. *β*. Secular, as St. Fagan's, Fonmon, St. Donat's Llantwit Town-hall, Derwydd, Devannor, Porthaml, Gwernyfedd, Porthmawr, and Court Bryn-y-Beirdd, &c.

5. Ecclesiastical—as Llandaff, St. David's, and Hereford Cathedrals.

6. Parochial.—The churches in South Wales are barren of interest, considering the number of them; and although isolated cases happen where the parish church affords evidence of former grandeur, yet it is

as a whole that this class of edifice will be found most interesting to the student. A strong family likeness runs through the churches of different portions of the country, as in Monmouthshire, where the Somersetshire type most prevails; or in Gower and Pembrokeshire, which are remarkable for their rude military buildings. It has been remarked by Mr. Freeman that twelve out of the sixteen churches of Gower have towers evidently built for defence. The churches best worth the attention of the tourist are—

Monmouthshire.

*1. St. Woollos, Newport.
1. Chepstow.
1. Mathern.
1. Magor.
1. Christ Church.
1. Caldecot.
1. Caerwent.
12. Abergavenny.
4. Grosmont.
3. St. Thomas, Monmouth.
5. Mitchel Troy.
5. Usk.

Caermarthenshire.

19. Llandeilo.
2. Caermarthen (St. Peter's).
2. Kidwelly.

Radnorshire.

19. Pilleth.
18. Presteign.

Cardiganshire.

18. Llanbadarn Vawr.
22. Llanddewi Brefi.
23. Cardigan.

Herefordshire.

4. Kilpeck.
16. Madley.
18. Kington.

Breconshire.

12. Crickhowel.
12. Partrishow.
12. Tal-y-llyn.
12. Brecon.
St. Mary's.
Christ's College.
Priory.

Glamorganshire.

1. Lantwit.
1. St. Donat's.
1. St. Bride's.
1. Coychurch.
1. Coity.
Ewenny.
1. Newton.
2. Swansea.
2. Ilston.
2. Llangenydd.

Pembrokeshire.

24. Tenby.
24. Pembroke.
24. Gumfreston.
24. Carew.
24. Penally.
24. Manorbeer.
24. Hodgeston.
24. Cheriton.
1. Haverfordwest.
24. Llawhawden.
25. Nevern.
23. Cilgerran.

VI. Social View.

A glance at the map, or a very short consideration of the physical features of South Wales, will make it obvious that, as regards climate, agriculture, &c., many variations must be met with. Even in the same

* The numbers denotes the Routes.

county, and often in a very small area, surprising differences of temperature exists; the high grounds and mountain-ranges presenting the appearance of severe winter, while the sheltered lowlands along the coast are luxuriating in a mild and spring-like atmosphere. Indeed in some districts, as South Pembrokeshire, the climate is seldom rigorous, even in the depth of winter—evidence of which is seen at Stackpole Court, where plants, which require in other parts of England the protection of a greenhouse, flourish well in the open air. It is this fortunate circumstance that makes Tenby such a valuable place of winter residence for the invalid. The agricultural products of the country are of course to a great extent influenced by its external features, although the science of farming has immensely improved within the last twenty years, and done much to remedy the natural disadvantages of the soil. Agricultural associations have been formed in almost every county; and the efforts of the large landowners to better not only the condition of the soil, but the social position of their tenants and labourers, have met with great success. The richest and best lands are generally to be met with in the alluvial valleys of the large rivers, as the Usk, Wye, Towy, Teifi, &c. The valley of the Usk may be said to be the most fertile, and to produce some of the finest crops. The lands on the slopes of the hills, and in the smaller tributary valleys, are of course more backward and less prolific; the hills themselves, though useless for produce, being very valuable for sheepwalks. Immense flocks of sheep, as well as large numbers of horses and ponies, are pastured on them, forming, in the mountain-regions of Cardiganshire and Caermarthenshire, the principal resource of the farmer. The vast population which occupies the mineral districts, offers a never-failing market for the farmers for many miles round; those who are near enough supplying the more immediate agricultural produce, while those of Cardiganshire traverse the country with their light carts filled with salt butter and bacon. Until lately the mining population was a great deal too busy in the bowels of the earth to think of what might be done on the surface; but within the last few years a great saving must have been effected by the enclosure of large quantities of waste land, on which good though rather late crops are grown. Even Merthyr, smoke-blackened and coal-grimed as it is, possesses its Agricultural and Horticultural Association, the effects of which have been in many instances to cover the desolate-looking "tips" and rubbish-heaps with rows of potatoes or cabbages. The character of the mining section of the Welsh population has wonderfully improved in recent years, which must be a source of congratulation to those who remember the lawlessness and ignorance which characterised Chartism, and the fearful riots to which it gave birth. Of course, where the amount of labour is so enormous, misunderstandings will often arise, which, if not adjusted, cause strikes and bitter feelings between master and man; but even these latter, unfortunate as they are, are seldom marked by appeals to physical force. This improvement must be ascribed principally to education and the force of public opinion, which amongst this class of people is

a powerful motive. It must be confessed that Dissenters have been the principal agents in humanizing and softening the mass; the Church of Wales having been, for many years, deplorably backward in seeking her flocks. But now throughout the whole of the country a very great change is apparent: the number of churches and schools has very much increased both in the dioceses of Llandaff and St. David's, and a more earnest spirit is apparent both amongst clergy and laymen. The improved tone which has grown up so rapidly has also, to a great extent, reached the large employers of labour, who indeed are the responsible parties for bringing together such vast masses of people; but while noble examples of liberality can be quoted, there are still some ironmasters who are far from being imbued with care for the requirements of the men that they employ. Serious crime is a rare thing in South Wales, particularly in the agricultural districts; and even in the manufacturing towns, when we come to consider that the population is by no means all Welsh, but includes large numbers of persons from Somersetshire, Wiltshire, Ireland, &c., the judicial courts are remarkable for their freedom from grave offences. It would be well if the seaport towns could say the same, though in their favour it should be urged that, apart from the usual mixed and floating population of a seaport, there is a large influx of foreign sailors.

The Welsh are a kindly, generous, and impulsive race, often gifted with a lively imagination and poetic temperament. Associated with these is a strong love of music, the cultivation of which in many districts is and has long been carried to a surprising pitch. Geraldus Cambrensis says of them: "They do not sing in unison, like the inhabitants of other countries, but in different parts; so that in a company of singers, which one frequently meets with in Wales, as many different parts are heard as there are performers, who at length unite with organic melody in one consonance. . . . In the northern parts of Britain beyond the Humber, and on the borders of York, the inhabitants use in singing the same kind of symphonious harmony, but with less variety, singing only in two parts. . . . Neither of the two nations has acquired this peculiar property by art, but by long habit, which has rendered it familiar and natural; and the practice is now so firmly rooted in them that it is unusual to hear a simple and single melody well sung. Their children from their infancy sing in the same manner." Nobody can hear the national Welsh airs, such as 'Ar hyd y nos,' 'The March of the Men of Harlech,' and 'Llwyn On,' without being struck with their great originality or pathos. In many parts of the principality, meetings or congresses of Welshmen, called *Eisteddfodau* or *Cymrygyddion*,* are occasionally held, at which prizes are offered for the best performances on the harp, or the best piece of poetry. The principal object of these meetings is to keep up the Welsh literature, which otherwise would be in some danger of becoming extinct; whether they really have any such results seems questionable, though at least one book of European reputation

* Pronounced Cumruguthion.

(Stephens' 'Literature of the Kymry') has been produced under their auspices in the present generation; but at all events they serve as useful fields for local genius, and also for preserving the germ of nationality which is such a distinguishing feature in Welsh character. Travellers should resort to these meetings, where they will hear good Welsh music, and see traits of Welsh character.

In South Wales the use of the English language is certainly growing, to the detriment of the Welsh, but the process is a very slow one, and there are many powerful counteracting influences. The publication and diffusion of books, magazines, and newspapers in Welsh has enormously increased. Seventeen weekly newspapers are published in Welsh, with a total circulation of 120,000; and one monthly magazine has reached a circulation of 37,760. The total circulation of magazines in Welsh exceeds 150,000 a month. Of books published in Welsh the majority are translations or collections of sermons, but there are signs of a revival of original literature, and several novels, said to be of remarkable merit, have lately appeared. There is no doubt that the recent establishment of three university colleges in Wales has greatly stimulated the intellectual life of the people. In addition to the liberal education which they themselves offer at the very lowest terms, they have opened a way to Oxford and Cambridge of which scholars of the humblest social rank, but of rare gifts, have eagerly availed themselves. With regard to the question of language, it may be added that the services in 2853 out of 3571 chapels of the four leading Nonconformist denominations in Wales are conducted entirely in Welsh. There are not very many districts where the tourist will not be able to make himself understood, except perhaps in the remote and hilly portions of Caermarthenshire and Cardiganshire—districts where the red flannel gown and the high-peaked hat may even now be seen, and where the perplexing answer of "dim Saesoneg" as frequently as not is given in answer to the stranger. In the border counties English is universally spoken as well as Welsh, which is the case also throughout the mineral basin, where most of the children are able to speak the two languages. South Pembrokeshire, however, and the peninsula of Gower, are almost exclusively and wholly English, not only in dialect and expression, but in the very names of the villages. This peculiarity is owing to the colonization of the former, in the 12th century, by the Flemings, and of the latter from Somersetshire; and the immigrants have handed down, from generation to generation, characteristics which have never yet been destroyed or effaced by contact with the Welsh.

Many old customs and superstitions have become obsolete within the last twenty years, in consequence of increased education and facilities of intercommunication with the rest of the country.

We may mention the "Plygain," *i.e.*, "the return of morn," "the dawn," the "early light," which was formerly very common in some of the churches of the Principality (particularly that of Crickhowel) on Christmas morning, and is still carried on at Llanover, near Abergavenny, and at Cadoxton, near Neath. At six o'clock the church was

brilliantly illuminated, while Christmas carols were sung. It is almost a pity that a custom so innocent and so pleasing should have fallen into disuse.

A very pretty habit was formerly prevalent at Tenby on New-year's morning, when children knocked at the doors, and, having obtained admittance, sprinkled the articles of furniture with water, at the same time singing the following quaint verses :—

"Here we bring new water from the well so clear,
For to worship God with this happy new year.
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine,
With seven bright gold wires and bugles that do shine.
Sing reign of fair maid, with gold upon her toe,
Open you the west door, and turn the old year go.
Sing reign of fair maid, with gold upon her chin,
Open you the east door, and let the new year in."*

Of all the Welsh superstitions, that of the fairies was for long most rooted and wide-spread. Glamorganshire appears to have been the head-quarters of this favourite idea; and many are the stories and legends of the "little men in green" devoutly believed by many a peasant. The same belief obtains in Monmouthshire also.

The Vale of Neath in particular was tenanted by fairies; and there are doubtless many living in the vale now who would be loth to trust themselves in certain spots at night-time, for fear of intruding upon their haunts.

The Welsh notion of fairies is, that they are the souls of persons who were not good enough to enter Heaven, nor bad enough to be sent to Pandemonium. They therefore remain on the earth, taking a benevolent interest in good actions, and equally disliking anything mean or underhand.

VII. Glossary of Welsh Words as occurring in the construction of Welsh Names.

Aber, the fall of a lesser water into a greater, a confluence.
Afon, river.
Aeron, fruits, brightness.
Al, power, very, most.
Allt, a woody cliff.
Ar, upon, bordering on.
Aran, a high place, an alp.
Bach and *Bychan*, little; Fach and Fychan.
Ban, lofty; pl. *Banau*, eminences.
Bedd, a grave.
Bettws, a station, a place between hill and vale.
Blaen, an end, point, the head of a vale.
Bôd, an abode, dwelling.
Braich, arm.
Brîg, summit.
Bron, breast, a slope of a hill.
Bryn, a mount, hill.
Bu, an ox.
Bwlch, a defile, pass.
Câd, host, battle.

* The tourist who is interested in old local customs, will find those of Tenby described at length in an interesting little book published by Mr. Mason, the librarian.

Cader, chair, stronghold.
Cae, field.
Caer, a fort, city.
Cantref, a division of a county, Hundred.
Capel, chapel.
Carreg, stone.
Carn, heap of stones.
Carnedd, ditto; pl. *carneddau*.
Castell, fortress.
Cefn, back, ridge.
Cil, a retreat; pl. *ciliau*.
Clawdd, dyke, hedge.
Clogwyn, precipice.
Coch, red.
Coed, a wood.
Cors, a bog.
Craig, rock; pl. *creigiau*.
Croes, a cross, a turn.
Crug, a mound.
Cwm, a dingle.
Cymmer, a confluence.
Dau, two.
Dê, south.
Dol, a meadow.
Dinas, a city or fortified post.
Drws, a door, a pass.
Du, black.
Dwr, water.
Dyffryn, a valley.
Eglwys, church.
Epynt, an ascent.
Erw, acre.
Esgair, long ridge.
Fach and *Fychan*, vid. *Bach*.
Fawr, vid. *Mawr*.
Ffin, limit.
Ffordd, passage.
Ffynnon, a well.
Flur, bright hue.
Gaer, same as *Caer*.
Gallt, vid. *Allt*.
Garth, a buttress hill, a cape.
Gelli, grove.
Glan, a shore, brink.
Glâs, blue, green.
Glyn, a glen.
Gwaelod, the bottom.
Gwaen, a plain.
Gwern, a watery meadow.
Gwydd, wood.
Gwyn, white, fair.
Hafod, a summer residence.
Hên, old.
Heol, a street.
Hîr, long.
Is or *Ys*, lower.
Isaf, lowest; *Uchaf*, highest.
Llan, an enclosure, churchyard, and hence generally used for the church itself.
Llech, a flat stone.
Lluest, encampment.
Llwyd, grey, hoary.
Llwyn, wood, copse.
Llyn, lake.
Llyr, water, the sea.
Llys, a palace.
Maen, stone.
Maes, field.
Mall, bad, rotten.
Mawr, same as *Fawr*, great.
Melin, mill.
Moel, bald, same as *Foel*.
Monad, isolated situation.
Morfa, sea-marsh.
Mynach, monk.
Mynydd, mountain.
Nant, brook.
Neuadd, a hall.
Newydd, new.
Or, edge, side, rim.
Pant, hollow.
Pen, head, top.
Pen-maen, the stone end.
Pentref, village, suburb.
Pistyll, a cataract.
Plas, hall, place.
Pont, bridge.
Porth, gate.
Pwll, ditch, pool.
Rhayader, fall, cataract.
Rhiw, ascent.
Rhôs, a moist plain.
Rhûdd, purple.
Rhyd, ford.
Sarn, causeway.
Tafarn, tavern.
Tal, the front, head, tall.
Tarn, spreading.
Tir, earth, land.
Tomen, mound,
Traeth, a sandy beach.
Tre, *Trêf*, house, a small town.
Tri, three.
Troed, foot of a hill.

Trwyn, nose.
Twlch, knoll.
Twr, tower.
Ty, house, mansion; pl. *Tai.*
Uchaf, highest; see *Isaf.*
Y, the.
Ym, in, by.
Yn, into.
Ynys, island.
Yspytty (hospitium), a place of refreshment.
Ystrad, a vale.
Ystwith, flexible.

The traveller who wishes to learn the Welsh language is recommended to study Spurrell's Grammar and Dictionary, as being the most easy and concise.

VIII. Points of Interest for the Geologist.

Penarth Head, near *Cardiff*, for Triassic marls overlaid by Rhœtic or Penarth beds and Lias. Rhœtic beds.
Barry Island.
Southerndown, Lias limestone resting on upturned Carboniferous limestone.
Llandaff, Permian, and Drift of the *Taff Valley* as far as *Pentyrch.*
Llantrissant, Dolomitic conglomerate overlying the hæmatite deposits.
Castell Coch, Limestone rocks.
Coal-measures at *Maesteg.*
Anthracite coal at *Cwm Amman.*
Marine coal shells at *Rhymney Gate*, near *Merthyr.*
Fish remains, marine shells, and ferns at *Beaufort* and *Ebbw Vale.*
Limestone rocks of *Gower* and *Worm's Head.*
Black shales at *Bishopston.*
Bone caves of *Bacon Hole* and *Paviland*, *Gower.*
Limestone rocks at *Tenby.*
Junction of ditto with Old Red at *Caldy* Island.
Contorted strata of Limestone of *S. Pembrokeshire.*
Cornstones at *Pontrilas*, *Herefordshire.*
The *Scyrrid Hill*, near *Abergavenny.*
Cornstones of *Bwlch*, between *Crickhowel* and *Brecon.*
The *Daren* near *Crickhowel*, and *Pencarreg-calch.*
Bradnor Hill Tilestones at *Kington.*
Tilestones of *Clyro Hills*, near *Hay.*
Horeb Chapel tilestones, *Cwm Dwr*, *Trecastle.*
Ludlow rocks of the *Epynt* and *Bwlch-y-groes Hills.*
The *Usk* valley of elevation.
Ludlow Rocks at Penylan, near *Cardiff.*
The Wenlock limestone and Pentamerus bed at *Corton*, near *Presteign.*
Nash Scar.
The eruptive rocks of *Stanner*, &c.
The *Llandeilo* rocks, near *Builth* (*Wellfield*), and the trap of the *Carneddau Hills.*
The lower Silurian rocks of *Llanwrtyd.*
The Llandovery beds at *Noeth Crug* (*Llandovery*).
The *Gogofau* gold-mines.
Valley of the *Sawdde*, near *Llangaddock.*
Cilgwyn, near *Llandovery.*
Llandeilo.
Mount Pleasant, *Caermarthen* (Lower Silurian).
Purple fossiliferous slates of *St. David's.*
Treffgarn Hills.
The *Sarn Cynfelin*, near *Aberystwyth.*
Lisburne and *Goginau* lead-mines.

IX. Skeleton Routes.

A. CHIEF PLACES OF INTEREST, ARRANGED ACCORDING TO COUNTIES.

Those best worth seeing are marked with an asterisk.

1. Monmouthshire.

Chepstow. *Castle. Portwall. Ch. Tubular Bridge. *Piercefield Grounds. Mathern Ch. and Palace. Moyne's Court. *Wyndcliff Hill. Bannagor Rocks. *Tintern Abbey.

Monmouth. *St. Thomas's Ch. *Bridge-gate. Town Hall. *Kymin Hill. *Buckstone. Stanton Ch. Doward Hill and Camp. *Symond's Yat. *Coldwell Rocks. *St. Briavel's Castle. Troy House. Trelech Ch. and Stones. Mitchel Troy Ch. Treowen Manor-house.

Raglan. *Castle.

Usk. *Castle. Ch. Silurian Rocks at Llanbadock. Llangibby Castle. Camps at Coed-y-Bunedd and Gaer-fawr. Cromlech at Newchurch.

Porthskewit. Sudbrook Chapel and Camp. *Caerwent. *Caldecot Castle and Ch. Dinham, Llanvair, Troggy, Penhow, and Pencoed Castles. View from Pencae-mawr.

Magor. Ch.

Newport. View from *St. Woollos Ch. *Castle. Docks. *Caerleon. Amphitheatre, Castle Grounds, and *Museum. Malpas Ch.

Pontypool. Park. Tin-works. Trevethin Ch. Blaenafon Iron-works. *Crumlin Viaduct. *Twm Barlwm Hill.

Brynmawr. *Nantyglo or *Ebbwvale Iron-works. Blaina Works and Ch. Scenery of *Ebbw Valley, Clydach Valley, and *Pwll-y-cwm Waterfall.

Abergavenny. *Ch. Castle. *Scyrrid and *Sugar-Loaf Hills. Blorenge Mount. White Castle. *Cwmyoy and Llanthony Abbey.

2. Herefordshire, as far as relates to the Wye Tour.

Hereford. *Cathedral. Town Hall. Castle Green. Blackfriars. Dinedor Hill. Holme Lacy House. *White Cross. Madley Ch. Kenchester.

Ross. *Ch. View from *Royal Hotel. Wilton Castle. *Goodrich Court and *Castle. Welsh Bicknor Ch. The Wye from Goodrich to Monmouth.

Pontrilas. Vale of Monnow. Ewias Harold Ch. *Abbeydore Ch. Garway Ch. and Dovecot. *Grosmont Ch. and Castle. *Skenfrith Castle. *Kilpeck Ch.

Kington. *Ch. Bradnor Hill. Offa's Dyke. Wapley.

3. Breconshire.

Crickhowel. *Ch. Castle. *Camp on Table Hill. *Porthmawr Gateway. *Llangenau Ch. Valley of the Grwyney. Partrishow Ch. *Tretower Castle. Cwmddu Ch. View from Bwlch Pass. Turpilian and Victorinus Stones. *Llangorse Lake. Tal-y-llyn Ch. Valleys of Dyffryn Crownan and Glyn Collwng.

Brecon. St. Mary's Ch. *Priory Ch. *Christ's Coll. *Castle.

The Gaer. Maen-y-Morwynion. The *Beacons. Llanddew Palace. Inscribed Stones at Llandevailog Ch. Llanspydidd Ch.

Devynnock. Ch. Vale of Senni. Penwylt. Scwd Hên Rhyd Fall.

Hay. Ch. Castle. *Cusop Valley and Black Mountains. Mouse Castle. Cromlech at Moccas. *Clifford Castle. Gwernyfed Manor-house. *Bronllys Castle.

Builth. Park Wells. Aberedw Ch. *Pwllddu. *Cwm Bedd Llewelyn.

Llanwrtyd. *Vale of Yrfon. *Llanddewi Abergwessin.

4. Glamorganshire.

Cardiff. *Bute Docks. *Castle. St. John's Church.

Llandaff. *Cathedral. Bishop's Gateway. Sully Castle. Barry Island and Castle. *St Nicholas' and St. Lythan's Cromlechs. Fonmon.

Llantrissant. Iron Mines. View from Ch.

Cowbridge. Beaupré. *Llantwit Ch. and Town Hall. *St. Donat's Castle, Ch., and Cross. Southerndown. Ogmore Castle. *Ewenny Priory. St. Bride's Ch. Merthyrmawr Crosses.

Bridgend. *Coity Ch. and Castle. Newton Ch. Coychurch. *Margam. *Aberavon Works.

Neath. Castle. *Abbey. *Neath Valley. Resolven. *Pont Neath Vaughan. *Waterfalls on Hepste, Mellte, and Pyrrdin. *Porth yr. Ogof. Ystradfellte. Maen Madoc, and Maen Llia.

Swansea. *Castle. Ch. *Museum. *Docks. *Copper Works. Ynispenllwch Tin Works. Pontardawe Ch. Carn Llechart. Yniscedwin Iron Works. Ystradgunlais Ch.

Gower. *Oystermouth Castle. Mumbles Rocks and Lighthouse. *Caswall Bay and *Coast Scenery. Pwllddu Point. *Bishopston Valley and Ch. *Ilston Ch. *Bacon Hole Bone Cave. Pennard Castle. *Cefn Bryn. *Arthur's Stone. *Penrice Castle and Ch. *Oxwich Castle. Paviland Caves. *Worm's Head. Rhosilly. Llangennith Ch. *Harding Down Camp. Llanmadoc Bone Cave. Weobley Castle. Lloughor Castle and *Bridge.

Taff Vale. *Castell Coch. *Caerphilly Castle. *Pontypridd Bridge. *Rhondda Valley. *Craig-y-Llyn. *Aberdare. *Merthyr Ironworks. Dowlais. *Pontsarn Waterfall. *Morlais Castle.

5. Caermarthenshire.

Llanelly. Copper Works and Docks.

Kidwelly. Ch. and *Castle. *Llanstephan Castle. Llaugharne Castle.

Caermarthen. *Ch. Obelisk. Whitland Abbey. *Cwm Gwili. Cynfil. Abergwili. *Dryslyn Castle.

Llandeilo. Grongar Hill. *Llandeilo Ch. *Dynevor Castle. *Carreg Cennen Castle. Court Bryn y Beirdd. Source of the Lloughor. *Carngoch. Llangadock. *Talley Abbey.

Llandovery. Vale of Cothi. *Gogofau Mines. Cynvil Ch. Llanfair-y-Bryn Ch. *Capel Ystrad Ffin. Twm Shon Catti's Cave. Vales of Doeithiau and Pysgottwr.

6. Radnorshire.

Rhayader. Vales of *Elan and *Clarwen. Road to *Builth.

Llandrindod. *Cefnlys Castle. *Abbey Cwm Hir. Devanner. Camps in Cwm Aran. Stanner Rocks.
Radnor. *Water-break-its-neck. Penybont. Old Radnor Ch. Pilleth Ch.
Knighton. Camps at *Caer Caradoc and Coxwall Knoll.
Presteign Ch.

7. CARDIGANSHIRE.

*Upper portion of the Wye. Plinlymmon. *Falls at Port Erwyd. *Parson's Bridge. *Devil's Bridge. *Goginau Mines. *Llanbadarn Vawr Ch.
Aberystwyth. *Castle. Plas Crug. *Craiglais. Vale of Clarach. *Sarn Cynfelin. Cwm Ystwith Mines. *Hafod. *Eglwys Newydd (*Chantrey's Monum.). Lisburne Mines. Llanavan. *View from Ffairhos. Ystrad Meirig School. Strata Florida Abbey. *Lakes of the Teifi. Tregaron.
Cardigan Ch. *St. Dogmael's Abbey. *Kenarth Bridge. Cilgerran Castle.
Newcastle. *Castle.
Lampeter. College. Llanvair Clydogau Mine. *Llanddewi Brefi. *Llanio. Vale of Aeron.
Aberayron. New Quay. Castle Nadolig. Llanrhystyd.

8. PEMBROKESHIRE.

Narberth Castle.
*Tenby Church; *Castle. Caldy Island. *Saundersfoot. St. Catherine's. *Gumfreston Ch. Carew Ch., *Castle, and Cross. *Penally Ch. Lydstep Caves. *Manorbeer Castle and Ch. *Stackpole Court. Cheriton Ch. *St. Gowan's Head and Chapel. *Coast to Stack Rocks.
**Pembroke* Castle. *Monkton Priory. Castle Martin and Warren Ch. *Lamphey Court. *Hodgeston Ch. Upton Castle. Benton Castle. *Pater Dockyard. *Milford.
**Haverfordwest* and St. Mary's Ch. Picton Castle. Slebech. *Llawhawden Castle. Broadhaven. Roch Castle. View over St. Bride's Bay. Newgale. *Solva.
**St. David's* Cathedral, College, and Palace. Nun's Chapel. Whitesand Bay. Penlan Fort. *St. David's Head. Carn Llidi. Penberry. *Trevine Cromlech.
**Fishguard.* *Goodwick. *Spot where the French landed. Cromlechs near Strumble Head. Preseley Hills. *Dinas Head. Newport Castle and Cromlech. *Nevern Ch. and Cross. *Pentre Evan Cromlech.

B. SKELETON TOUR OF ONE MONTH

through the Southern portion of South Wales.

DAYS.

1. London to Tenby (by rail) viâ Whitland.
2. Tenby Castle. Ch. Walls. Penally. If tide admits, visit Lydstep. Excursion to Caldy, or drive to Saundersfoot.
3. Excursion to Manorbeer, Stackpole Court, Cheriton Ch., St. Gowan's Head, Stacks, and sleep at Pembroke.

DAYS.

4. See Monkton, Lamphey, Carew, Pater, and sleep at New Milford.
5. Visit Milford, and by train to Haverfordwest, St. Mary's Ch.; if omnibus serves, to St. David's in afternoon. (It is a glorious walk for a pedestrian, who must take care on reaching Newgale to follow the road and not cut across the marshes.)
6. St. David's. Cathedral, College, Palace. If time, visit St. David's Head or the Nun's Chapel near Caerfai. (The tourist should endeavour to spend Sunday here.)
7. Cromlech at Trevine, and on to Fishguard (there is no conveyance). Visit Goodwick and Carreg Gwasted.
8. Excursion to Preseley Hills. The pedestrian had better not return to Fishguard, but descend to Newport.
9. Dinas Head, Newport Castle, Nevern Ch. and Cross, Cromlech at Pentre Evan; Cardigan. Visit Cilgerran.
10. In morning visit St. Dogmael's Priory. By coach to Newcastle Emlyn, and Llandyssil, and on by rail to Caermarthen.
11. Visit Llanstephan and Kidwelly, and back to Caermarthen, or on to Llanelly.
12. From Caermarthen to Llandeilo by rail, or from Llanelly to Llandeilo by rail. Visit Dynevor Park, Carreg Cennen Castle.
13. Carn Goch, Llandovery. Excursion either to Gogofau or up the Valley of Towey to Capel Ystrad Ffin.
14. To Swansea by rail. Visit Castle, Docks, Museum, and by omnibus to Oystermouth Castle and Mumbles.
15. By Swansea Vale Railway to Ystalyfera and walk on to Ystradgunlais. If time permit, visit Waterfall of Scwd Hen Rhyd. If the tourist prefer, he can spend this day in an excursion to the Bone Caves of Gower and the Worm's Head. (There is no conveyance.)
16. To Neath and Vale of Neath. Get out at Glyn Neath Station, and visit the Waterfalls. The first train ought to be taken to allow of this. In the evening take the last train to Merthyr Tydvil.
17. Visit Iron-works, Pontsarn, and Morlais Castle. In afternoon by rail to Brecon.
18. Visit Priory Church; ascend Beacons.
19. To Crickhowel: coach; or the rail can be taken as far as Talybont. Visit Crickhowel Castle, Ch., and Llangenau Valley, and in evening to Abergavenny.
20. From Abergavenny by rail to Pontypool, and from thence by Crumlin and Quakers' Yard to Cardiff. Visit Docks.
21. Visit Llandaff Cathedral; if possible, let it be Sunday.
22. By Taff Vale Rail to Castell Coch and from Walnut-Tree Bridge to Caerphilly.
23. From Cardiff to Cowbridge by rail (if driving, visit St. Nicholas Cromlech), and thence by Llantwit Major, St. Donat's, Ogmore, and Ewenny Priory, to Bridgend.
24. From Bridgend to Newport. Visit St. Woollos, or else, if time permit, Caerleon. In afternoon by train to Usk and Raglan.
25. From Raglan to Abergavenny (a magnificent drive), and on by rail to Hereford. (A pedestrian may get out at Llanvihangel Station, visit Llanthony Abbey, and be back in time for the last train to Hereford.) Conveyances must be obtained at Abergavenny, as there are none at Llanvihangel.

DAYS.

26. Visit Cathedral, and, if on proper days, Holm Lacy; in afternoon to Ross by rail.
27. From Ross to Monmouth by coach or water. Visit Goodrich Court and Castle, Symond's Yat, and Buckstone.
28. Monmouth to Chepstow by water. Visit Tintern and Wyndcliff.
29. Chepstow Castle. Mathern, Caerwent, and Caldecot. From Porthskewit Station.
30. Chepstow to London, &c.

Wye Tour.

[This tour, including Sundays, will be about 33 days.]

C. A TOUR OF SIX WEEKS.

1. From London to Kington by rail, viâ Ludlow.
2. Kington to Rhayader by post. Excursion up Vale of Elan.
3. Excursion to Abbey Cwm Hir, Llandrindod, and Cefn Llys Castle.
4. By rail to Builth, Hay, and Brecon.
5. Visit Priory, Castle, the Gaer, Beacons.
6. Post to Llandovery and by rail to Llandeilo. Visit Dynevor Park and Carregcennen Castle.
7. From Llandovery by rail to Llanwrtyd Wells and Builth. (A pedestrian may start early, go up to Capel Ystrah Ffin, cross the mountains to Llanwrtyd, and on by rail to Builth in the evening.)
8. From Builth to Aberystwyth by rail.
9. Visit Castle, Llanbadarn Vawr, Constitution Hill, Clarach Vale, &c.
10. By omnibus to Devil's Bridge, visit Hafod, and sleep at Devil's Bridge.
11. By rail to Strata Florida Abbey (if time, to Llyn Teifi), and on by rail to Tregaron.
12. From Tregaron by rail to Loventium, Llanddewi Brefi, Lampeter and Caermarthen.
13. Caermarthen to Tenby by Whitland; on way visit Llawhawden Castle.
14. Tenby.
15. Manorbeer and the coast.
16. Monkton, Pater, &c.
17. Haverfordwest, St. David's.
18. St. David's.
19. Fishguard.
20. Newport, Nevern, &c.
21. Cardigan, Cilgerran, rail to Caermarthen.
22. Kidwelly.
23. Swansea and Vale.
24. } Gower.
25. }
26. Neath. Abbey. Margam.
27. Bridgend. Dunraven.
28. Vale of Neath Waterfalls; in evening to Merthyr to see its Ironworks.
29. Merthyr to Abergavenny by rail. Visit Ch., Castle (if time, ascend Sugar Loaf). In evening to Crickhowell (post).

DAYS.

30. Back to Abergavenny, and by rail to Pontypool, Crumlin Viaduct, to Quakers' Yard, and so to Cardiff.
31. Llandaff.
32. Caerphilly and Rhymney Valley.
33. Penarth and coast.
34. To Newport by rail. Visit St. Woollos Ch., Castle, Docks. Excursion to Caerleon.
35. To Pontypool, Usk. Raglan by rail.
36. Raglan Castle. White Castle. To Hereford.
37. Hereford. Cathedral. Kilpeck Ch. (St. Devereux Station), Ross.
38. Ross to Monmouth. If time permit, excursion to Grosmont Castle.
39. Monmouth to Chepstow. Tintern, Wyndcliff.
40. Chepstow Castle. Mathern. From Porthskewit to Caerwent and Caldecot.
41. From Chepstow to Gloucester, &c., or by steamer to Bristol.

D. PEDESTRIAN TOUR THROUGH THE HEART OF WALES,

which may be added to or substituted for any of the days' routes mentioned before.

Arriving at Pontypool from Hereford or Newport.

1. From Pontypool across the Crumlin, Sirhowy, Rhymney, and Taff Vales. A not very long walk, but fatiguing, owing to the height and number of the hills to be crossed.
2. From Pontypridd to the head of the Rhondda valley, across Graig-y-Llyn to the Lamb and Flag in Neath Valley. About 26 m.
3. Visit Waterfalls and Scwd Hên Rhyd, returning by Ystradgunlais to Ystalyfera, where take train to Swansea.
4. Swansea to Worm's Head, Gower. 20 m. Sleep at Pitton Farmhouse.
5. Return to Swansea, visiting the remaining places not seen the day before.
6. Take train to Aberafon; walk through Cwm Avon to Maesteg, and up through Glyn Corrwg into Vale of Neath. A good day's work. If possible, try and catch the last train to Merthyr.
7. From Merthyr by Castle Morlais up the Valley of the Lesser Taff to Beacons, and down to Brecon.
8. Walk to Llandovery, and in afternoon visit Llandeilo, &c., returning to Llandovery.
9. Start early, and walk up the Towey to Capel Ystrad y Ffin. Visit Twm Shon Catti's Cave, and thence up the Vale of either the Doeithiau or Pysgottwr to Tregaron. This is a long walk, solitary, and requires a fine day and a good map.
10. From Tregaron to Strata Florida, Llyn Teifi, and sleep at Hafod Arms.
11. Visit Parson's Bridge, Falls of the Rheidol at Pont Erwyd, and ascend Plinlymmon. In evening, train to Aberystwyth.
12. By train from Aberystwyth to Llanidloes, and walk to Rhayader.
13. Up the Vale of Elan and Clarwen to Drygarn mountain, and descend by the Vale of Yrfon to Llanwrtyd Wells, and by rail to Builth.
14. From Builth to Hay.

15. From Hay, across the Black Mountains, to Llanthony Abbey, and down the Honddu to Llanvihangel Station.

These routes may of course be altered or interpolated with others in every possible way.

E. A COAST WALK OF A FORTNIGHT.

1. From Cardiff, by Penarth Head, Aberthaw, Barry Island, to Llantwit (a very poor inn).
2. By St. Donats, Southerndown, to Bridgend, from whence take the train to Swansea.
3. To Mumbles, Caswall Bay, Pwllddu Point, and up Bishopton Valley to Gower Inn.
4. By Paviland to Worm's Head (sleep at Pitton Farmhouse).
5. Back to Swansea or Gower Road Station over Harding Down and Cefn Bryn. Take train to Kidwelly.
6. Take train to Ferryside, cross ferries at Llanstephan and Llaugharne, and follow coast to Saundersfoot and Tenby.
7. Round by Manorbeer to Bosheston (?). As there are no inns in this district, the pedestrian must endeavour to put up at a farmhouse.
8. To Pembroke and Milford.
9. Milford to St. David's.
10. To Fishguard by St. David's Head.
11. To Cardigan.

X. Additional Information about the Dowlais Iron Works.

The Dowlais Iron and Steel Works occupy the narrow valley of the Dowlais a little below its junction with the Morlais. Both streams rise within the northern limits of the coal-basin, the Dowlais just within and upon the lowest measures, the Morlais between them and the limestone.

The town of Dowlais covers the triangle between the two streams, extending northwards from their junction at Gellifaelog. The base of this triangle is formed by the Ivor Works, a part of those of Dowlais. The Penydaran Works stand upon the brook below Dowlais, but are now closed. Dowlais and Penydaran hold under Lord Bute upon the common of Gelligaer, south-east of and above their works. The Penydaran coal-field was purchased by the Dowlais Company, and the works have long been closed.

The tenure of the Bute minerals is of high antiquity. Lord Bute represents in law, though not in blood, the old Norman Lords of the Honour of Cardiff, who conquered Gelligaer from the Welsh, and held it for centuries at the sword's point. It was granted, with other seignorial rights, by Edward VI., to Herbert, maternal ancestor of Lord Bute. Lord Windsor, who was the Penydaran landlord, and is a large coal owner in Merthyr and Aberdare, represents the far older, but the conquered possessor. His not very remote ancestress was the heiress of

the ancient and wealthy Glamorganshire family of Lewis of the Van, from whom nearly the whole tract between the Taff and the Rhymney was wrested, but who have retained to the present day the other portions of their extensive property. Their district of Morlais is full of traditions and local names commemorative of Ivor Bach, the Roland of the Glamorganshire Paladins, to whose memory manufacture itself in this nineteenth century has paid an unconscious tribute in the name of the Ivor Works.

The mineral wealth of the Merthyr district was long unavailable, and probably unsuspected. The iron ores of the South and West, of Monmouth, Somerset, and Sussex, were rich in quality, superficial in position, and lay surrounded by forests, then the only source of fuel.

It was not until towards the seventeenth century that pit-coal was applied to the smelting of iron ore, and it was by tedious, difficult, and irregular steps that it came into general use. The commercial spirit of England, quickened in some degree by the intelligent and industrious Protestant artisans banished by Louis XIV., began with the eighteenth century to pervade every branch of industry. Dud Dudley's process for smelting iron by means of coal was brought into general use, and in the adjacent counties of Stafford and Salop, Dudley, Wednesbury, and Bridgenorth, became the seats of an iron manufacture sufficiently profitable to direct attention to other coal-fields.

Of these one of the earliest was Merthyr Tydfil. In 1748, 10th March, the Hon. Thomas Morgan, of Ruperra, took a lease, dating from 1st May, but not finally executed until the 1st Nov. 1749, for 99 years, of the toll-house and fair of Marchnad-y-Waun, 20 acres of land about it, and the minerals of the manor of Senghenydd-super-Caiach, including the commons of Blaen Rhymney and Gelligaer. Whether Mr. Morgan worked these minerals is unknown; probably he did not, but certainly he induced others to do so, for, before 1759, he had assigned his lease to the nucleus of the Dowlais Company, represented then by Mr. Lewis, of Newhouse, and a partnership, with a subscribed capital of 4000*l.*; and when, in November, 1762, the original lease was surrendered, the re-grant was on the plea of the great expense to which the applicants had gone, the furnace which they had erected, and the considerable quarries of stone which they had opened. The new lease was for the remainder of the old term. The old rental had been 23*l.* per annum, with an additional property, of which a sub-lease fell in. The new lease was for an advanced rent of 5*l.*, upon which rent of 31*l.* the Dowlais minerals were worked until the recent expiration of the lease.

The new lessees were all members of the partnership of 1759. They retained their original division of the property into 16 shares, Mr. Lewis being the principal holder. After various changes, and the admission and retirement of various small partners—one of whom was Robert Thompson, uncle to and founder of the fortunes of the late Alderman of that name—Mr. John Guest, of Brosely Ironworks, ap-

peared in 1782, 19th August, as a partner, and by their skill and assiduity he and his descendants gradually increased their interests in the concern, until, at the expiration of the lease, Sir John Guest held 10 shares, his nephew, Mr. Hutchins, 1 share, and the Rev. W. P. Lewis, grandson of the original lessee, 5 shares.

Shortly after the renewal of the lease, Sir J. J. Guest became the sole lessee, having purchased out the other interests, and so died in 1852, leaving the works in trust, under which management they are still carried on.

It is remarkable that the two original lessees—the Adventurers, as they were called—Mr. Morgan and Mr. Lewis, should have appeared in such a capacity. Both were men of fortune, members of county families celebrated for antiquity of race and attachment to Welsh customs, but not celebrated for the acquisition of wealth in any kind of trade; frequent and excellent as knights and sheriffs, but quite unknown as ironmasters or manufacturers. Possibly, they found the capital, and had wit to see the probable future value of the property.

But, whatever the lessees may have thought of their property, the lessors had clearly no opinion of its value. The lease fixes no dead-rent, no royalty upon the minerals, makes no provision for their extended workings, imposes no fine upon their being sub-let or wasted, makes no stipulation for any outlay of capital. The whole manor, from the Caiach northwards to the county border, about 16 miles long, was leased without any limitation! It is, indeed, probable that for many years the property was not productive, and it did not produce extraordinary profits to any of the original lessees; but even the second generation found it lucrative, and before the termination of the lease there were years in which the profits were much above 3000 times the rent.

The negotiations for the renewal of the lease lasted through many years. It is said that Lord Bute had a presentiment that he should not live to sign the new lease, and it is probable that the anxious and warm discussions on the subject shortened the lives of both lessor and lessee. Lord Bute died suddenly a few days before he was to have affixed his signature; and when, some time afterwards, the lease was sent to Sir John Guest to be executed, he too lay on his death-bed and died without having been able to attend to it. The renewal passed between trustees on each side.

Although the firm bore the designation of "Guest, Lewis, & Co.," or "the Dowlais Iron Company," Sir John Guest, even while only one of several partners, was long and justly regarded as its real representative. From the death of his uncle in 1815 to his own death in 1852, a period of 37 years, he was its active and sole manager. When he took the management Dowlais may have numbered about 1000 people, and the works produced from 5 furnaces about 15,000 tons annually of pig-iron. Sir John Guest found Merthyr a mere village; he did more than any single man to leave it a populous town, larger than, and as opulent as, many cities, and the head of a borough which from the

time of its enfranchisement he represented in Parliament. During his life he was the only Merthyr ironmaster who provided a place of worship for his people or a school for their children, and he well deserved the eulogium inscribed upon his tombstone at Dowlais.

Upon Sir John's death and the marriage of his widow, Mr. G. T. Clark became the sole trustee. With him was then associated Mr. Bruce, now Lord Aberdare, who for some time took an active share in the business. Under the trust the coal leases were renewed and extended, the Penydaran coal-pit was purchased, the Bessemer-Mushet steel-making processes introduced, and the works more than doubled their producing power. They were for many years the only Welsh works in which steel rails were made, and they introduced the novelty of ship-plates.

In 1888 the works produced—

	tons.
of finished steel . .	199,146
„ iron . . .	15,591

In a few years the local iron ore failed to meet the demand. They imported ore from Barrow, from Northamptonshire, and finally from Bilbao, whence at this time their principal supply is drawn. Under the influence of severe competition the distance of the works from the port became a serious disadvantage, and in 1888 the trustee accepted a large lease of ground on the Bute Dock site at Cardiff, upon which smelting furnaces and rolling mills are now rising.

The Dowlais Company, whilst thus expanding its operations, has not neglected duties of a different character. The schools, the largest in Britain, numbered, in 1888, 2044.

HANDBOOK

FOR

SOUTH WALES.

ROUTES.

*** The names of places are printed in *italics* only in those routes where the *places* are described.

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ROUTE 1.

FROM CHEPSTOW TO SWANSEA, BY NEWPORT, CARDIFF, BRIDGEND AND NEATH.

(South Wales Railway.)

ȸ **Chepstow** Stat., from its position on the borders of Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire, and its accessibility, is the most convenient place from which to commence a tour of South Wales. It is on the main line of rly. from Gloucester to Milford, is easily approached from Bristol by rail (*viâ* Porthskewit) or steamer, and is at the gates of the beautiful scenery of the Wye. A Wye Valley line from Monmouth to Chepstow is also available.

On emerging from the deep cutting of mountain limestone on the Gloucestershire side of the river, a fine view of the town is gained, as the train glides over the **Tubular Bridge**, a bold conception of the late Mr. Brunel, though, in itself, scarcely harmonizing with the rest of the scene. It blends the principles of Telford's suspension and Stephenson's tubular bridges, and consists of two superstructures divided into four spans, the whole being 600 ft. long. The tubes are supported at intervals upon the chains by vertical trusses, and are about 152 ft. above low-water mark ; the river piers being sunk to a depth of 50 ft., until they rest on the mountain limestone. This bridge was opened in 1852. Chepstow is situated altogether on the W. bank of the Wye, about 2½ m. from its confluence with the Severn, and, viewed from the opposite side, presents a most picturesque appearance ; the most striking feature being the ruined castle, forming, as it were, part of the steep limestone cliffs, which descend to the water's edge in bold escarpments.

The counties of Monmouth and Gloucester are here connected (in addition to the rly. viaduct) by a handsome road bridge of 5 arches, erected in 1816. At the upper end of the principal street is a stone gate, part of the ancient fortifications : but more perfect specimens exist in the *Walls*, flanked at intervals by towers which surround the old Port, commencing a little below the bridge, and extending by the W. gate round the whole town, almost back to the bridge. They are well seen from the rly., soon after quitting the station on the Monmouthshire side.

The **Church**, once conventual, and belonging to the Benedictine Priory, is mentioned as early as 1168 in the Bull of Pope Alexander III., and was founded either by the Norm. Baron, William Fitz-Osborn, or by his successor, Earl Richard Fitzgilbert, ancestor of the Clares. It is dedicated to St. Mary, and is the sole survivor of four churches in Chepstow. It has undergone an unusual number of alterations, but still contains a considerable portion of Norman architecture. At the W. end, under an ugly modern tower, is a circular portal richly adorned with chevrons and zigzag mouldings. This, together with the 3 round-headed windows above it, is a counterpart of the doorway of St. George's at Boscherville in Normandy. A central tower is said, on the authority of Coxe, to have existed, and to have fallen in 1720, but this is not confirmed by older writers. Great alterations, however, were made in 1837, by the throwing out of a new chancel, for the development of which one of the bays of the nave was sacrificed.

The nave is ancient, and its rows of circular arches are supported on massive square piers, somewhat like

those of St. Albans. Over these arches are triforia, consisting of apertures pierced in the wall, and a range of E. Norm. clerestory windows. The triforia differ somewhat on the N. and S. sides.

"A little attention ascertains the truth, that among the accumulations of successive periods of barbarism there lies concealed the nearly perfect nave of no contemptible Norman minster."—*E. A. F.* Here is a monument to Henry, 2nd Earl of Worcester, bearing his marble effigy under a canopy supported by Corinthian pillars. Under a slab in the chancel is interred Hen. Marten, the regicide, who died 1680, aged 70.

By far the most interesting object in Chepstow is the **Castle**, of great extent and in tolerable preservation, highly picturesque in form, and most striking in its situation on a steep platform of rock, on one side washed by the Wye, and, on the other, separated from the town wall by a deep dingle, that is prettily clothed with greensward and timber, and forms a natural dry moat to the fortress. The entrance on the E. side, facing the bridge, is by a gate-house flanked with circular towers, still retaining its ponderous doors, not indeed original, but old, coated with iron-plates, and cross-barred within. The entrance vault is grooved for the portcullis, and pierced with the usual apertures for stockades. The ground-plan of the fortress is an irregular parallelogram, covering 3 acres, divided into 4 courts, each with its separate defences, one being the formidable river-cliff, on the edge of which the N. wall is built. In the Domesday Book, it is spoken of as Castellum de Estrighoiel, or Striguil, but the British name was Casgwent, and the Saxon, Cheapstowe. Though a castle was built here by the Norman, Fitz-Osborn, Earl of Hereford, in the 11th centy., and though portions of that structure may still be seen in the keep, most of Chepstow must be looked upon as the work of the reigns of the three Edwards, with additions even of later date. It belonged to the Clares, upon whom the castle and estates were bestowed by the King upon the attainder of Roger de Britolio, 3rd son of Fitz-Osborn. Dugdale relates a curious anecdote of this Roger, "though he frequently used many scornful expressions towards the King, yet was the King pleased, at the celebration of the Feast of Easter, in a solemn manner, as was then usual, to send to this Earl Roger, at that time in prison, his royal robes, who so disdained the favour, that he forthwith caused a great fire to be made, and the mantle, the tunic, surcoat of silk, and the upper garment lined with precious furs, to be suddenly burnt; which being made known to the King, he became a little displeased and said, 'certainly he is a very proud man, who hath thus abused me, but by the brightness of God he shall never come out of prison so long as I live.'" The King kept his oath, and the proud lawless Earl ended his days in confinement. The castle came through Isabel, daughter and heiress of Richard Strongbow, Earl of Striguil, Chepstow, and Pembroke, by marriage to the Marshalls, and eventually, also by marriage, to the Herberts, from whom its present owners, the Somerset family, acquired it. On entering the first court on rt. are the offices, including the kitchen, marked by its wide chimneys, and, below it, a chamber excavated in the rock, an opening in which overlooks the river: this is called a dungeon, but was more probably a cellar. On the l. is a very fine drum-tower, where the regicide Hen. Marten, the wit, and one of the few convinced Republicans of the Revolution, was confined for 20 years. He died on the 9th Sept. 1680, and was buried originally in the chancel of St.

Mary's Ch., but a later vicar, not brooking that the bones of a regicide should moulder so near the altar, had them removed to a passage between the nave and the N. aisle. Here also was imprisoned Jeremy Taylor on a charge of complicity with a Royalist insurrection.

In an upper story is an oratory of singular beauty, lighted by a pointed window on the E. There is some ball-flower moulding in this apartment, together with a piscina near the S. window. The 2nd court is converted into a garden, and beyond it rises the original Norm. keep, the nucleus and oldest part of the whole work, though much altered, and pierced with pointed windows. In the original wall are courses of bricks and tiles, possibly taken from some Roman works. There are some good details in the clustered columns of the windows. The chief apartment within was evidently the hall, with pointed arches and elaborately carved windows. Its length is 90 ft., and its breadth 30 ft. Behind the last, or western court, is another entrance, defended by drawbridge, moat, portcullis, &c., even more strongly if possible than the main entrance, but of inferior work and later date. The castle was several times taken and recovered by the two parties in the civil war, and was even at one time beseiged by Cromwell in person, who, pressing forward to quell the insurrection at Pembroke, left it to be reduced by his licutenant. Col. Ewer. The Royalists, when nearly starved, prepared to escape down a rope into a boat on the river, when a Puritan soldier, discovering this, swam across and cut the boat adrift. The castle was then taken by assault, 1645. It was again besieged in 1648, when the commander of its little garrison, Sir Nicholas Kemys, was killed with 40 of his men. Afterwards the castle, with the park of Chepstow, together with the Chase of Wentwood and several estates belonging to the Marquis of Worcester and others, amounting in value to 2500*l.* per annum, were granted by Parliament to Oliver Cromwell. At the Restoration the castle and lands were given back to their rightful owners, and have remained in their possession ever since.

The hills around Chepstow afford excellent views of the beauties of the surrounding country, and show in a remarkable degree the characteristics of the scenery of the carboniferous or mountain limestone. On the W., **Hardwick**, an old seat of the Thomas family, purchased and improved by the late Bp. Coplestone, commands an admirable view of Chepstow, the venerable fortifications of the old Port, and the mouth of the Wye. On the other hand, by crossing the bridge and mounting the hill, a beautiful landscape is gained, having for its principal points, **Piercefield** (late the residence of H. Clay, Esq.), the rocks on the W. Bank of the Wye, and the Wyndcliff.

The Wye is navigable for large vessels up to Chepstow Bridge, the *tide* rising higher here than at almost any other point on the coast of Britain. It is usually 40 ft., but not unfrequently, after a prevalence of winds which drive the sea into the Bristol Channel above its mean level, it has reached an elevation of 50 ft., and once in January, 1768, to 70 ft. This is probably owing to the jutting out of the rocks at Aust and Beachley.

At the entrance of the river is an islet, upon which are the ruins of an ancient chapel, said to have been built in the year 47, and commonly called **St. Tecla's** or Treacle chapel, one of the old "Free chapels" which were independent of any parochial jurisdiction. William of Worcester calls it "Capella Sancti Teriaci, Anchoritæ."

This St. Tecla, the first British

female martyr, was the daughter of one of the petty reguli of Gwynedd, who being enamoured of a religious life, abandoned the rude splendour of her father's court, and retired after the manner of those primitive times, to this lonely seabeaten rock, for purposes of prayer and meditation. She was not, however, long permitted to enjoy her solitude unmolested, for one of those roving bands of piratical Vikings, who infested this coast, swept down upon the lonely isle and murdered its occupant. The pious spirit of an after age reared the memorial chapel, whose scanty remains may yet be traced upon the summit of the rock. The ch. of Llandegla, in Denbighshire, is dedicated to this saint, and her well, in the same parish, long enjoyed a wondrous reputation for its cures of epilepsy, or, as it is termed by the Welsh, "Clwyf Tecla," or St. Tecla's disease. Llandegley, in Radnorshire, dedicated to the same saint, has a holy well, of special virtue in cutaneous disorders.

From **Beachley**, near this spot, is a ferry to the opposite coast, called the Aust or **Old Passage** (formerly the Trajectus Augusti), the distance being about 1½ m. The coaches from Wales to Bristol used to cross at this ferry, at which, in old times, many fatalities from drowning occurred.

Following the road to Chepstow from Beachley, on rt., is **Sedbury Park**, the seat of the late G. Ormerod, Esq., the learned historian of Cheshire, and of his son, Archdeacon Ormerod, a scholar and antiquary, who did not long survive him, and through whose grounds **Offa's Dyke**, which commences in the parish, may be easily traced. The general belief is that this dyke, which extends from the mouth of the Wye to that of the Dee, was simply a line of demarcation, though it is a happy suggestion that it was a frontier barrier connecting a line of camps, and capable of being used on an emergency for defensive purposes.

To the N. of the Dyke are lofty precipices, conspicuous from the railway.† Between these Severn cliffs, and an ancient beacon on the plain adjoining a Roman potter's kiln was discovered a few years ago; and in 1859, intrenchments of what seems to have been a summer camp (castra æstiva) connected with Caerwent and the Passages. Draining operations have already produced much Roman pottery and other remains. *Cars* can be obtained at Chepstow for excursions to Tintern, 5 m. (Rte. 3); and *boats* are kept for the same purpose, for which advantage should be taken of the ascending tide.

As the traveller leaves Chepstow Stat. he skirts the banks of the Wye for a short distance, and gains some pretty peeps through the openings in the mountain limestone cutting.

2 m. on rt. is **Mathern**, called by Leland "a preatty pyle in Base Ventland," a pleasant sunny spot, containing the remains of the ancient palace, of quadrangular form, inhabited by the Bishops of Llandaff, until 1706. It is now a farmhouse, but still shows in its tower, gateway and mullioned windows, traces of its former grandeur. The *Ch.* is old and possesses a nave with aisles, chancel, and lofty square tower; in the interior are some E.E. arcades, and a tablet to the memory of Prince Tewdrig, with an inscription by Bishop Godwin. Tewdrig was King of Gwent and Morganwg, and was slain at the battle of Tintern, A.D. 600. A stone coffin was discovered by Bishop Godwin, as he tells us in his account of Llandaff Diocese, containing his

† Noticed in the *Geological Trans.* vol. i., and also in *Archæol.*, vol. xxix., with a map.

almost perfect skeleton—a ghastly fracture in the skull revealing plainly the cause of death.

Not far from Mathern is **Moyne's Court** (in old documents called Monk's Court), built by Francis Godwin, Bp. of Llandaff, 1601-1617, but previously the seat of the De Moignes. It is conspicuous for a very picturesque gateway, flanked by slender side towers. Although, from its name, it was evidently a religious house, belonging to Mathern, it was afterwards the residence of Richard Hughes, a relation of Bp. Godwin. In the walls of the courtyard are 2 defaced Roman inscriptions, declared by Coxe to commemorate the restoration of the Temple of Diana by Postumius Varus.

A little further on the rt. of the rly., is the Park and old mansion of **St. Pierre,** for many centuries the seat of the family of Lewis, an early offshoot from the Morgans of Tredegar, when surnames were yet unfixed. The house, though old, has been modernized, but retains a Gothic gateway with flanking towers of the 16th centy. In the interior is a portrait, believed to be that of Henry Marten, the regicide. The ch. is a plain, single-aisled building close to the house, called in old documents "Sancti Petri ecclesia."

4½ m. Porthskewit Junct.—The steam ferry-boat has now been replaced by the tunnel which passes under the Severn about 1½ m. from the Junction. It has brought S. Wales much nearer to the West of England, and also affords the shortest route to Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, and the North. Fast trains by this route have recently been established by the G. W. R. in conjunction with the L. & N. W. R.

The tunnel is one of the most important engineering works of modern times. Its total length is 4 m. 624 yds., of which 2¼ m. are under the estuary of the Severn. At high-water spring tides the rails through the tunnel are at one point 150 feet below the surface of the water. The tunnel was opened for goods traffic on September 1st, 1886, nearly fourteen years from the time of beginning the works, and the first passenger train from London to S. Wales passed through it on July 1st, 1887. The time occupied in running through the tunnel is about seven minutes.

Overlooking the Channel are the remains of *Sudbrook Chapel,* and a British camp defended by triple ramparts.

Porthskewit, called in the Welsh Triads one of the three site in the isle of Britain, was the site of a palace built by Harold, of which no traces remain. The village lies to the rt. of the rly., and is prettily situated. The ch. (restored) is a plain building, consisting of nave and chancel with tower at the W. end and S. porch.

[1½ m. from Porthskewit is **Caldicot Castle** (J. R. Cobb, Esq.), the towers of which are well seen from the rly. on rt. soon after leaving the stat. It is a good specimen of military architecture, consisting of a Round Keep (13th cent.), situated on a moated mound, and containing a vaulted subterranean dungeon, basement, and 3 stories above; in window recess of 2nd floor was an oratory. From the keep on S. and E. runs a shell, with horse-shoe towers 30 ft. high at intervals, embracing 1½ acre. At the E. the shell is partly destroyed. The whole is surrounded by a second moat. In centre of S. curtain is a Square Gatehouse (Dec.) with high roof, between 2 flanking latrine towers: this, the most striking portion of the castle, is fitted up by the owner as an occasional residence; it contains lofty guard rooms, the state chambers, and the remains of a chapel; one

flanking tower has a parapet supported on sculptured corbels, carrying pointed arched machicolations. Opposite is the Postern Tower. Between the gatehouse and the S.E. tower are 4 large and widely-splayed Dec. lights, of which 3 are divided by transoms. Several of the hearths have herring-bone work of tile-stones.

The whole building is remarkable for the excellence of its masonry. Caldicot is the most westerly place mentioned in Domesday. It was originally held by Durand the Sheriff, and subsequently by 10 successive Humphreys de Bohun, from whom it passed by marriage to Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester, and was annexed to the Duchy of Lancaster by Henry VIII. The owner will allow inspection by persons interested in mediæval work who send in their names. *No picnic or large parties admitted.* The **Ch.** (restored) is unusually large, having a side aisle, nave, chancel, and a bold tower. The windows are good, and there is an example of the cinquefoil in the chancel. The service here is choral, and admirably performed by a surpliced choir.

Between Caldicot and Shirenewton is the ruined chapel of **Runston,** a religious establishment of some note, attached to Mathern.

1½ m. to the N. of Caldicot, on a rising ground amidst a broad valley, is **Caerwent,** the Venta Silurum of the Romans, and an important garrison of the 2nd Augustan Legion, situated on the Via Julia, which ran from Caerleon (Isca Silurum) through Caerwent, either to Strigulia (Chepstow) or to Caldicot Pill, there to cross the Channel. Of this road traces are still visible in the neighbourhood of the village of Crick. In Leland's time "there yet appeared pavements of old streates, and yn digging they founde foundations of greate brickes." Considerable fragments of the ancient walls of Caerwent exist, on the plan of a parallelogram, although much overgrown with trees and shrubs. They enclosed an area of 40 acres, 500 yards long by 400 wide, and included a Roman villa with hypocausts, baths for private use, and all the flues and appurtenances thereof. The masonry is tolerably perfect on the W. and S. sides, on which are 2 bastions, built up against the wall, but not incorporated with it. Where the facings have been removed, the zigzag or herring-bone form of building is observable. Many Roman remains have been found here, particularly 2 tesselated pavements, fragments of which are still to be met with in the orchard; besides portions of columns, statues, and coins of the reigns of Severus and Gordian III., as well as of Gallienus, Constantine and other Emperors. Bodkins, pins, spindle-whirls, cups and bowls of Samian ware, and other indications of civilized life, have been discovered here also. The road to Newport intersects the place at right angles.

The **Ch.** has probably been built out of the materials of the Roman city. It has a porch with a rich doorway and a remarkable series of E. E. arcades with rather flat arches, in the S. wall of the chancel.

About 4 m. to the N. of Caerwent, upon the farm of Gaer Llwyd and in the parish of **Newchurch,** may be seen a very perfect cromlech, the only one in the county. The upper stone is about 12 ft. in length by about 3½ in breadth, and the supports vary in height from 4 to 5 ft. The slight trench around the whole may well be part of the embankment or barrow, supposed to have been thrown up over these prehistoric sepulchres. In the neighbouring parish of Llangwm is a large British camp called **Gaerfawr.** At the distance of 1½ m. to the E., upon Golden Hill, is another, called **Bryn**

Eurag, and 1 m. to the N.E. of Gaerfawr is yet another, said to be Danish, called **Cwrt-y-gaer.** This last is circular.

There are some inconsiderable remains of other fortresses in the neighbourhood. 1½ m. to the N. W. of Caerwent is **Dinham Castle,** of which there are but few vestiges, overgrown with wood.

Llanfair Castle, 2 m. from Caerwent, is prettily situated on the road to Usk across Wentwood Forest. It possesses a square and 2 round towers, blended with a farmhouse. On the stile at the entrance of the churchyard is the following quaint inscription :—

"Whoever hear on Sonday
Will Practis Playing at Ball,
It may be be Fore Monday
The Devil will Have you all."

Proceeding 3 m. on the same road, the tourist will arrive at **Troggy** or **Striguil Castle** (so called in the Ordnance map, though the only "Striguil" Castle known in the records of the realm is Chepstow), E. of the r. Usk, and at the foot of Pen Cae Mawr, from whence there is a fine view of the vale of Usk. An octagon tower with arched windows is all that is left.

On the road to Newport, 3 m. from Caerwent, stands the well-known wayside inn of the Rock and Fountain, and opposite to it **Penhow Castle,** which, like Llanvair, has been turned into a farmhouse. A square embattled tower forms the principal remains. This was for many centuries the residence of the St. Maur or Seymour family.

Pencoed Castle lies between Penhow and Magor, 2 m. from each, overlooking Caldicot level, and is an old mansion of the date of Henry VIII., built from the materials of the castle, and possessing a gateway with a circular arch, flanked by two narrow pentagon turrets, a round embattled tower, and parts of the ancient wall. It was long the seat of a branch of the Morgan family. It is evident that these and the many other petty castles with which this part of Monmouthshire is thickly studded, were built for the protection of Wentwood district, probably by the retainers and tenants of the Bohuns and the Clares.]

As the train glides over the flat marshes of Caldicot Level, on the l. is the Bristol Channel, bounded by the mountain limestone ridge between Bristol and Alveston, and on the rt. the prettily-wooded range of Wentwood Forest.

Caldicot Level is an extensive lowland tract defended from the inroads of the sea by a series of huge walls and dykes, which are under the control of an annually appointed "Court of Sewers" held at Newport.

10 m. **Magor Stat.** Here is a large handsome ch. (restored), having an E.E tower with Perp. alterations.

14 m. **Llanwern Stat.** On rt. is the plain little ch. of Llanwern and *Llanwern House.*

The suburb of Maindee is now passed, and the train glides over the railway bridge recently constructed across the Usk to

♁ Newport (Rte. 4), a flourishing port on the rt. bank of the Usk, about 4 m. from its confluence with the Severn. The tide rises to a height of 40 ft. It enjoys a largely increasing traffic, owing to the great exportation of coal and iron from hence, its position being at the point where the busy and densely populated valleys of the Usk, Afon, Eddw, and Sirhowy rivers converge,

Cardiff, thanks to the late Lord Bute, had many years the start of Newport, but at last, under the leading of Sir G. Elliott, supported by the influence of Lord Tredegar, the powerful ground landlord, the Alexandra Dock was formed and the town has rapidly increased.

Newport has the advantage of possessing communication by 6 rlys., viz., the *South Wales* to London and Milford, the *Great Western* (by an improved route *via* Caerleon) to Hereford and the North of England, the *Monmouthshire*, now in the hands of the *Great Western*, to the ironworks in the neighbourhood, the *Sirhowy* to Tredegar and the London and North-Western system, the *Brecon and Merthyr*, which gives connection with the Mid-Wales and the Pontypridd, Caerphilly, and Newport running into the Rhondda valley. Bristol also is accessible by the Severn Tunnel Railway. A canal runs to Pontypool, Abergavenny and Brecon, while a second accompanies the Western Valleys Railway up to Crumlin. Steamers ply daily to Bristol in from 2 to 3 hrs., according to tide, and to Cork once a week. For the accommodation of large vessels which were prevented approaching the town from want of water, a large and commodious *dock* was opened in 1842, at an expense of 200,000*l.*, and having an area of $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres. A still larger one, possessing an area of $7\frac{3}{4}$ acres, was opened in 1858, the old dock not being of sufficient extent for the rising commerce of the port.

In 1868, the **Alexandra Docks** were commenced on a scale adequate to the requirements of the place. They cover $28\frac{1}{2}$ acres, and were opened on the 12th of April, 1875, and a further extension is now in progress. A fine view of the town and St. Woollos Ch., backed up by the Blorenge and Twm Barlwm Mountains, is to be obtained from the docks, which are situated in the district of Pillgwenlly or Pill. Within the last few years the well-built suburb of Maindee has grown up on the opposite side of the river. Pop. about 45,000.

The town of Newport itself is much improved of late years, and now possesses several modern buildings of taste and interest, viz., the Town Hall, Free Library, new market, &c. The archæologist may pleasantly pass a day or two in exploring the neighbourhood.

The **Castle** stands upon the rt. bank of the Usk, between the bridge and the railway. Its river front is perfect; but almost all the rest, save some scanty walls and a couple of towers, is either destroyed or concealed by the building of a modern brewery. The present ruins are late Perp., with round-headed arches, well worthy of attention. It was founded by Robert Fitzhamon, the conqueror of Glamorgan, in the latter part of the 11th cenry.; for the double purpose of defending the passage over the river, and to aid him in maintaining his recently acquired lordship. But the present building is the work of the Stafford family, who inherited the manor from the De Clares.

The **Ch. of St. Woollos** is interesting, both from its noble situation on Stow Hill, and its architecture. "No better or more typical Norm. interior on a moderate scale can be desired." It consists of a nave, two aisles, a chancel, and a quasi-military tower. The principal feature is the E.E. chapel of St. Mary, which contains some mutilated monuments, and is connected with the nave by a beautiful Romanesque door adorned with the Norm. ornaments of billet and chevron, and having this peculiarity, that the inner order rests upon a pair of large detached columns. The Ch. was restored in 1858. The view

from the ch.-yd. commands the river Usk, and the levels of Caldicot and Wentloog from Magor to the Rhymney; the Bristol Channel, and the counties on its opposite shore.

Some very scanty remains of a house of **White Friars,** consisting chiefly of fragmentary portions of the N. transept of the chapel, and a portion of an ambulatory, may be seen in a low, dirty district leading out of Commercial-street, called "Friars Fields."

Newport is famous for the attack made on the night of the 4th of Nov. 1839, by the Chartists, under the leadership of John Frost. The Mayor, the late Sir Thomas (then Mr.) Phillips, gallantly read the Riot Act from the windows of the Westgate Hotel, until a wound in the arm compelled him to desist and order the soldiers to fire on the mob, a proceeding which effectually dispersed the rabble. He received, what in his case was the well-deserved honour of knighthood, for his conduct on that occasion. Traces of the conflict are still to be seen in the pillars of the old porch which have been re-erected in the vestibule of the new Hotel.

Amongst the seats in the vicinage are:—Tredegar Park, The Friars, Llantarnam Abbey, Malpas Court, and St. Julian's, once the residence of Lord Herbert of Chirbury.

At **Goldcliffe,** 3 m. from Newport, near the mouth of the Usk, are the slight remains of a priory, founded in the early part of the 12th centy. The cliff itself contains near its base a course of mica—which, glittering in the sunlight, evidently obtained the name Goldcliff.

1½ m. from the town, near the Caerphilly road, is a very perfect camp, said to be Roman, and called "*the Gaer.*" Upon the Wentloog Level (2 m. distance) is another encampment, believed to be Saxon.

[3 short m. up the rt. bank of the Usk, is the once famous city of **Caerleon** (the Isca Silurum of Antoninus), where the 2nd Augustan Legion was for years in garrison, once the capital of S. Wales, and the seat of the metropolitan see, but now a decayed village. Giraldus Cambrensis describes its theatres, temples, and palaces, though in a declining state, as far back as the 14th centy., in a pompous and doubtless considerably exaggerated style, which is not borne out by Henry of Huntingdon, who, half a century before, wrote that the walls were then scarcely to be seen. Its chief remains of antiquity are a Roman amphitheatre, which was probably open, and like that still preserved almost intact at Dorchester, and outside of and opposite to which is a field (outside the walls) still called the "Bear-House-Field," a souvenir of the animals then kept for the sports of the amphitheatre; a bank of earth heaped up in an oval form 16 ft. high, called Arthur's Round Table; some fragments of Roman wall, though not so perfect as at Caerwent; and an artificial mound 300 yds. in circumference. This mound is held to be an addition to the Roman works, and has all the character of a Saxon Burh, such as is seen at Cardiff and, until their removal, were to be seen at Hereford and Gloucester.

The Roman remains found here from time to time are most numerous. They have been figured and drawn by the late J. E. Lee, Esq., of the Priory, whose monograph, entitled 'Isca Silurum,' is worthy of the fullest examination by antiquaries. A local **Museum** has been erected here by the instrumentality of the Caerleon Antiq. Ass., which will well repay inspection. "Though not in themselves very important, these early relics of the first introduction of civilization

into the extremities of our island by Roman conquest must surely be interesting to any reflective mind. The mutilated records of the occupation of this remote station by the 2nd Augustan Legion—the commemoration of the rebuilding of their barracks — the restoration of their temple—the monuments of their officers, shewing them to have been established here with their wives and families — *the votive tablet inscribed to Fortune and happy events by the bride and bridegroom*, and sepulchral inscriptions of widows and children to deceased husbands and parents — the fragments of their household utensils—the needles and fibulæ of the ladies—the remains of their villas in the town and suburbs, with their tesselated floors and baths—the camp which exercised their discipline, and the amphitheatre which witnessed their sports,—all these bring before the mind's eye a vivid picture of the circumstances of the times which first destroyed the insulated separation of Britain from continental Europe, and admitted her within the sphere of the civilized world."—(*W. D. C.*) The above extract gives a lively and, except in one clause, an accurate sketch of the objects of interest in the museum. It is now quite established that the votive tablet to Fortune and "Bonus Eventus" was vowed by two husbands, and erected by their wives or widows.

The museum contains, besides, some very curious votive and sepulchral inscribed tablets, stone coffins, &c., &c., an important collection of earthen materials (Samian ware, pottery, cinerary urns, lamps, mortars, lamp-moulds, *antefixa* (or roof-ornaments to answer the purpose of parapets), bricks, tiles, tesselated pavements), glass and enamel ornaments, bone and ivory carvings, objects in bronze and iron, rings, seals, counters, chairs, calculi, ligulæ or ladles, &c., in addition to remains from the Roman villa that came to light during the excavations in the Castle grounds by the owner, the late Mr. John Jenkins, in which an interesting series of baths, flues, and drains was laid open.

A considerable number of sepulchral stones were discovered at **Bulmore,** a beautifully situated hamlet, rather more than a mile from Caerleon, on the old road to Caerwent, and on the l. bank of the Usk, proving that it was the residence of some family of note.

In Caerleon-ultra-Pontem, burial urns have been found; and, in fact, the whole neighbourhood teems with Roman remains.

The **Church** (restored) is Norman, and contains some good examples of round-arched architecture. A very interesting tesselated pavement was discovered during the restoration, as well as the fact revealed, that the site of the modern ch. was occupied by a building of much greater antiquity.

On one side of an arch a painted Greek cross was found, of vivid colouring, which, however, faded away considerably on exposure to the air. Some fragments of inscriptions, mentioned by Coxe, but long lost, were found at the same time in pulling down a house in the ch.-yd.

In the neighbourhood of Caerleon are several **Camps,** viz., at the Lodge Farm, 1 m. N.W.; at Penhow, on the road to Usk; and at St. Julian's Wood. The camp at the *Lodge* has been called by ancient antiquaries Belingstocke, and supposed to have been the castrum æstivum of the 2nd Augustan Legion. It was of an elliptical shape, with double ramparts, and with a western entrance, defended by a tumulus. It was probably a British fortress prior to its being made a Roman camp, and is said in the 'Myvyrian Archæology' to have been built by "Belli,

the son of Dyvynwal Moel Mud, and to have been called Caer Llion."

Underneath the Lodge Camp is **Pilbach Farm**, where villas, inscriptions and a tesselated pavement were found; and to the E., on the banks of the Afon Llwyd, is **Pont Sadwrn**, where stone coffins, with glass vessels and a so-called lachrymatory, were discovered.

In British times Caerleon still held an important place, as being the archiepiscopal see of the holy Dubritus, sometime Bishop of Llandaff, whose successor, St. David, afterwards moved his cathedral into the wild solitudes of Menevia (St. David's). The suburb on the opposite side of the Usk is still called Ultra Pontem, on the hill above which stands with fine effect the old tower of **Christchurch**, which has a fine peal of bells. In the interior is the monumental stone of St. Colmer, upon which persons were accustomed to repose all night on the eve of Trinity Sunday, in the hopes of being released from their infirmities. There are extensive tin-works at Caerleon, near the confluence of the Afon river with the Usk. Between this place and Newport, by the roadside, is *St. Julian's*, now a farmhouse, but once the abode of Lord Herbert of Cherbury. The armorial bearings of his predecessors, whose heiress he married, remain over the entrance.]

Soon after leaving Newport, is on the rt. **Tredegar Park**, the residence of Lord Tredegar. The house, a large red-brick building, the work of Inigo Jones, is situated on a flat, but on the edge of a prettily undulating park, through which the Ebbw river flows. The approach is by avenues of noble chestnuts. One room, called the Oak-room, floored with planks made from a single tree, is 42 ft. by 27. The Western Valleys Railway runs through the park on its way to Ebbwvale and Nantyglo (Rte. 7).

Lord Tredegar, whose sire, the first peer, was formerly known in Wales as Sir Charles Morgan, represents in the female line the great Monmouthshire family of Morgan, and thus inherits very large estates in Glamorgan, Monmouth, Brecon, and London. He is also landlord of the well-known Tredegar works.

The traveller is now in the ancient province of Nether Gwent, and the line, crossing the Ebbw, is carried across a large alluvial marsh, the continuation of the Caldicot Level, known as the **Wentloog Level**. These flats extend as far as Cardiff, on an average about 2 to 3 m. wide, and are defended from the sea by a bank of very high antiquity. On the rt. the old red and limestone hills, which form the S. border of the South Wales coalfield, are a prominent feature, and it is evident that they were at one time the barrier cliffs against the sea, which washed their bases and covered these alluvial lands.

22 m. **Marshfield** Stat.

[On rt. (2 m.), is **St. Mellon's**, a fine old church of the 14th centy., built on the ruins of a former Norman edifice. It possesses a peculiar lopsided chancel, and has met with full commemoration in a paper by Mr. Freeman, in the 3rd vol. of the 3rd series of 'Arch. Cambr.'

1½ m. N.W. of St. Mellon's, on the opposite side of the Rhymney, is **Cefn Mabley** (Col. Kemys-Tynte), a curious old house of that family.

Further N. of Cefn Mabley is **Ruperra** (Hon. F. Morgan), reputed, on very slender evidence, the work of Inigo Jones. It commands an extensive view of the Severn and Somersetshire hills. There is a moated mound in the park, and another not far off at Castleton.]

Soon afterwards the **Rhymney** river is crossed, the boundary between England and Wales, Monmouth and Glamorgan. The traveller now leaves the villlage and ch. of *Rhymney* on rt., and obtains a good view on l. of Penarth Head and the forests of masts betokening the approach to

Cardiff (Caer-tiff, from Tibia Amnis, or perhaps "Caer" "Dyf," *h. e.* Taff), the old county town of Glamorgan, a distinction now shared with Swansea. It stands on the l. bank of the Taff, 2 m. above its opening, in common with the Ely, under the headland and roadstead of Penarth.

Cardiff is now by far the most important town in the Principality, and, in spite of serious natural disadvantages as a harbour, has become one of the first commercial ports in the world, over 25,000 vessels entering and clearing from the port each year. Cardiff, in regard to exports, surpasses both London and Liverpool, and is only slightly surpassed by New York. In the rapidity of its growth, the cosmopolitan character, and, one may add, the public spirit and enterprise of its inhabitants, it nearly resembles the Western cities of America.

Pop. in 1801	1,018
,, in 1851	18,351
,, in 1881	85,378

Now (1889) the population is estimated at 125,000, that is to say, an increase of 50 per cent. since the last census! The rateable value of the town has more than doubled itself in the last ten years, and there is at present no sign of any check to this prodigious growth of population and wealth. This development is due to its being the principal outlet of the mineral produce, coal and iron, of the Taff, Rhymney, and their tributary valleys, brought hither by its canal and railways, and attracted by its magnificent docks. The Glamorganshire Canal, from Merthyr and Aberdare, opened 1794, communicates with the sea by a sea-lock 103 ft. long and 13 ft. deep on the sill, at the Taff. This, having been found insufficient, was reinforced in 1840 by the Taff Vale Railway, by which a great portion of the coal and iron traffic is now carried (Rte. 15). The Rhymney Railway, opened 1858, leaves Cardiff upon the Taff Vale rails, and diverges from it at Walnut-tree Bridge to pass into the valley of the Rhymney (Rte. 14). The *Bute Docks*, opened in 1839, were completed in 1859. This noble work was projected by the late Marquis of Bute, who, with a prescience only rivalled by that of the great Duke of Bridgwater, staked his whole estate upon the undertaking, and lived to see about half of it completed. Since his death the works have been carried on, still at the expense of the estate, in the first instance by trustees and subsequently by his son, the present Marquis, and have been completed at an outlay of probably not less than a million sterling. The West Dock, the one first opened, has sea-gates of 45 ft. opening; depth on the sill at springs 28 ft. 8½ in., at neaps 18 ft. 7½ in.; and a lock 152 ft. long by 36 ft. broad: the area of basin is upwards of 18 acres, and the length of quays 8000 ft. The East Dock has gates of 55 ft. opening; depth on sill 31 ft. 8½ in. and 21 ft. 7 in.; with an outer lock 220 ft. by 55 ft., and an inner lock 200 ft. by 50 ft. The area of this basin is 46 acres, depth 25 ft., breadth 300 ft. and 500 ft., and length of quays 9100 ft.

Encouraged by the success which has attended the Bute Docks, a company was formed to create the rival establishment of the Penarth Harbour and Docks, covering an area of 26 acres at the mouth of the Ely. To these have been added the Roath

Basin and Dock (45 acres) and the Barry Basin and Dock (87 acres). The exports in coal from Cardiff, which in 1851 amounted to 740,159 tons, had grown in 1888 to the enormous figure of 8,750,000. Cardiff is the depôt of the smokeless coal for the navy. The effect of all this trade has been a corresponding increase of Cardiff. Not only has a complete town sprung up about the docks, but crowded suburbs have risen towards Roath and Maindy, at Penarth, Canton, and along the road to Llandaff. In 1801 there were 327 houses in Cardiff, in 1888 there were said to be 17,500. In the breadth of its streets, and the comparative cleanliness and openness of its thoroughfares, it is certainly far ahead of Swansea or Newport.

As a contrast to the present busy activity, it is interesting to recall a view of the town towards the close of the last centy :—

"The port was held to be in extreme activity, when the comparatively scanty supply of iron was brought down from the hills in waggons, each carrying two tons, and attended to by a man and a boy. Even Mr. Bacon's contract guns in the American war were thus conveyed for embarcation to the side of the Gwlad Quay, which, from that circumstance, was for some time afterwards known as the 'Cannon Wharf,' though that name has long been lost; and it is a proof of the growth of the town since that time, that the guns used to be proved from the street before this quay against the earth-bank of the south wall across the end of the street, there being no houses beyond the then gate called Porth-Llongy. Coals were at the same time brought chiefly from Caerphilly Mountain, in bags weighing from 100 to 130 lbs., on horses, mules, and asses, with a woman or lad driving two or three of them. This was principally done in fine weather, for it was customary to avoid the incidental delays of frost, snow, or bad weather, by bringing in the winter stock at a particular time, and this provident collecting was called a Cymmorth, from a Welsh word signifying help or assistance."—*Smyth.*

Until of late years Cardiff only possessed 1 ch. (that of St. Mary's, mentioned by Speed as being in danger, having been washed away by the Taff in 1607): a later *St. Mary's*, built in 1842, deserves but little notice.

St. John's, the parish ch. of the greater part of the old town, is situate in Church-street, which is at right angles to High-street, and is within an easy walk of the G. W. R. Stat. and the Castle. It has a noble Perp. tower of great height, with handsome open battlements and pinnacles, which form a conspicuous object in the surrounding scenery. The W. door is decorated with a nail-head moulding; and within are 2 curious altar-tombs, with effigies and canopies, in honour of Sir William and Sir John Herbert; the ruins of whose seat, the White Friars, are still seen in the Sophia Garden, one of the various public parks of the town of Cardiff.

The **Castle** (Marq. of Bute). It has always been supposed that Cardiff (Caer Tibia) was the site of a Roman station, but of this, till quite recently, there was no material evidence. The main feature of the Castle is a broad and lofty earth-bank, forming nearly three sides of a rectangular area expanding into a mound at its S.E. angle, and containing near to its N.W. angle a large conical flat-topped mound, detached from the bank and with its own moat—in fact, a Saxon Burh. The earth banks were also moated outside. On the W. and contiguous half of the S. side, where the bank is wanting, it is replaced by a wall 40ft. high and 10ft. thick, quite plain and without buttresses, and

the mound is covered by a polygonal shell keep of late Norm. date. Upon the wall at the entrance to the court is a square tower of E. E. date, called Duke Robert's tower, from an absurd notion that the eldest son of the Conqueror, who was a prisoner at Cardiff, was here shut up. In the centre of the W. side is the main block of the Castle buildings, many of Dec. date, though with a later vaulted cellar. The fine octangular tower is the work of Rich. Beauchamp Earl of Warwick, who became possessed of the Castle by marriage with the heiress of the Despensers.

Formerly a strong wall, lying N. and S., crossed the court and connected Robert's tower with the mound and keep, crossing the inner ward which was walled, and leaving the E. part of the court as an outer ward protected only by the earth-bank and moat, and probably a stockade upon the former. In this outer ward stood the Shire Hall, a chapel and lodgings occupied by the principal tenants who held of the Castle by military service, and here resided when on duty. The cross wall has long been destroyed and the keep-moat filled up, but Lord Bute has disinterred the foundations of the wall, reopened the moat and laid bare the piles of a draw-bridge, the Castle-well and the base of the flight of steps which give access to the keep. These have been carefully restored. Other additions, as a tower at the S.W. angle, have been made and the interior much embellished by the present owner. The detail is by Burgess, and is much admired.

Looking to the figure of the earth-banks, it was evident that the place was after a Roman pattern, but as the Romans usually walled their permanent stations, and seldom threw up earthworks of such size, it was supposed that these were designed on Roman lines, or by men who had some knowledge of Roman castramentation. The mound was evidently Saxon, and probably of the 8th cent. Recently, however, in digging foundations for a new N. gate to the town, Lord Bute cut into the adjacent bank, and within its centre came up the lower 10 or 12 ft. of a ruined wall 10 ft. thick, having polygonal buttresses, and in fact a very evident Roman work. The enigma was thus solved. The Roman station was on the site of the Castle and was walled. On the departure of the Romans, probably during the Welsh and Saxon struggles, the wall was ruined. When the Saxons got the upper hand they did not rebuild the wall, but buried it in a bank of earth and threw up a Burh. The same thing may be seen at York, and would probably appear at Wareham, Tamworth, and Hereford, all places where there were heavy earthworks on a rectangular plan and where there is or was a Burh.

When the Normans came, they, like the Romans, preferred walls to earthworks, but they utilized the Burh by placing upon it a shell keep, but cut away the W. and half of the S. bank, replaced them by a wall, and by an addition within made an almost impregnable inner ward. The subject is full of interest, and the recent discovery far surpasses anything of the kind that has hitherto been found.

"The Castle of Cardiff, though not unknown to border fame, has been the theatre of no great historical event. . . . its claim to more than local interest rests upon the character and fortunes of the great Barons whose inheritance and occasional residence it was from the 11th to the 15th cent., from the reign of Rufus to that of Hen. VI."—*G. T. Clark.* It was won for the Normans about 1090 by Robert Fitz Hamon, lord of the Honour of Gloucester, and was by him made the "Caput" of the territory of Morgan and Glamorgan which he and his fol-

lowers had wrested from the Welsh. About this conquest much legendary matter has been written and is still current: but it is plain that, whatever the immediate pretext, it was part of a settled policy which was carried out all through S. Wales about the same time. The heiress of Fitz Hamon conveyed the castle with the seignory of Glamorgan to Robert Consul, bastard son of Henry I., and probably the builder of the Norm. portion of the Castle. Through their grand-daughter the Honour of Gloucester and the Castle of Cardiff passed to the great house of De Clare by whom it was held for nearly a century. Another heiress transferred it to the Despensers, who had possession for another century. This line ended in an heiress with whom the Castle passed in the beginning of the 15th cent. to the Beauchamps and through Anne, daughter of the "King Maker," to Richard III. After his death it remained, with a short interval, in the Crown, until Edward VI. sold it with its manorial rights to William Herbert the 1st Earl of Pembroke of that name, through whose heirs it has devolved upon the present owner. During the civil war it was alternately in the possession of either party. Staunchly loyal, it held out for the king till treason from within opened the gates to Cromwell, who hanged the traitors. In 1642 the Marquis of Hertford recovered it for the king, but it was shortly retaken. In 1647 Colonel Prichard, a Roundhead, refused to surrender it to the Royalist, Major-General Henry Stradling. The ramparts are most tastefully planted with creepers and evergreens, and the public are freely admitted.

A short distance E. of the castle are the scanty remains of the *Friary*, long the seat of the Herberts. They are situated within and to the rt. of the entrance-gates of a pretty garden and walks, known as the *Sophia Park*, which have been made on the W. side of the river, just across the bridge, by Lady Bute, for the use of the townspeople. A statue of the late Lord Bute nearly faces the Castle gateway. Cardiff possesses some handsome buildings—such as the *Town Hall*, a Library and Museum, &c.

In 1883 after a strenuous contest with Swansea, Cardiff was selected as the site for the University College of S. Wales and Monmouthshire. The College was opened in 1883 in temporary buildings not far from the Taff Vale and Rhymney Rly. Stats. It is governed by a royal charter and receives a Government grant of £4000 a year. The number of students matriculated since 1883 is 520; in the session 1888–89 the number in attendance was 164. The College is particularly strong in its scientific and technological departments. In consequence of a munificent gift of the Drapers' Company a chair of mechanical engineering is about to be founded. The fees for all the College lectures may be compounded for by the student at the extraordinary low figure of 10*l.* a year. The College Library contains a unique collection of books in Welsh or on Welsh subjects numbering nearly 20,000 vols.

♁ **Penarth** should be visited, either by omnibus or steamer from the dock, which plies to and fro twice or thrice in every hour, partly for the fine scenery of Penarth Head and partly for the *Docks*, which have been executed at a very heavy outlay, and are connected with the Taff Vale Rly. by a line 4 m. in length, the junction taking place beyond Llandaff. A very pretty *Church* has been built at Penarth by the late Baroness Windsor, at a cost of 8000*l.* It is E. pointed, of cruciform shape and foreign type, with a tower and saddleback roof, 90 ft. high. The designs

were by *Butterfield.* From the high ground beyond the ch. the visitor looks over the Bristol Channel upon Weston and Clevedon, and the Flatholmes and Steepholme are conspicuous midway in the waters.

Leaving Cardiff station, the railway crosses the Taff and the alluvial flats of Leckwith, having Penarth Head to the l. and *Canton,* with its new ch., to the rt.

31 m. **Ely** Stat. 1 m. on rt. is **Llandaff Cathedral,** which has gradually but steadily risen from the ruin and desolation of ages. It is placed upon the rt. bank of the Taff, and at the foot of a steep slope, upon and above which stands the ancient, but fast increasing village, the titular city of Llandaff, and centre of the parish, with a population of 1796 at the last census. The situation is one of uncommon beauty. The broad river ripples over a pebbly bed, fringed with overhanging alders, and winds its way across the fertile meadows that first attracted the Norman spoiler. The sheltering hill boasts several fine trees, while its side is thickly studded with graves, and its crest is crowned by the old-world village street, with the ruins of the Bishop's fortified palace, and its cross, probably the spot where the crusade was preached in 1187 by Archb. Baldwin, the Papal Legate, attended by his chaplin, Giraldus Cambrensis, Archdeacon of Brecknock, in the time of William Saltmarsh, Bishop of Llandaff. As in the vicinity of St. Asaph, so in that of this S. Welsh *Cathedral,* villas are springing up under the shadow of the church, and the town of Cardiff is drawing dangerously close to the pleasant lanes and meadows that surround the Cathedral city.

Llandaff is a place of high antiquity, and, putting aside the tradition of the building of its earliest church by the shadowy British King Lucius, who is said to have applied to Pope Eleutherius to send over missionaries *circa* 180 A.D., it was certainly the seat of one of the earliest British Bishoprics. The first Bishops were Dubritius, the apparent founder of the See, who resigned some time before his death, which is variously attributed to 512 and 522 A.D. (even 612 A.D. by the chronicler in the 'Liber Landavensis,' but this date is difficult to reconcile with other events), and Teilo or Eliud, said to have died 540 A.D.

The dedication of the earliest church at Llandaff is a matter of some doubt. The three earliest Bishops, Dubritius, Teilo and Oudoceus, were considered the three patrons of Llandaff, but in accordance with the custom of the Welsh Church, the church and diocese of Llandaff usually bore the name of its principal founder S. Teilo. According to the earliest records gifts to the church appear to have been made to "God and S. Teilo," on whose tomb solemn oaths were taken. With regard to the existing Cathedral, Bishop Urban is said to have built it in honour of "the Apostle Peter and the holy confessors Dubritius, Teilo, and Oudoceus;" but in a grant of an advowson later on to the chapter it is called the church of SS. Peter and Paul [Browne Willis, p. 163], and so its dedication is now generally considered to have been. S. Teilo's remarkable sanctity was attested ('Liber Landavensis') by the miraculous triplication of his mortal parts. Three churches, viz. Llandaff, Llandeilo, and Penally, near Tenby, having each laid claim to the honour of receiving the saint's bones, agreed to settle the point by praying him to reveal the secret; whereupon, with a policy which cannot be too much admired, three distinct but exactly similar bodies appeared to the supplicating

churches, each one of whom bore off his remains in triumph. According to some writers, however, Llandaff was not created a separate bishopric until after St. David had removed the archiepiscopal see from Caerleon, in which tradition represents him as succeeding Dubritius, to Menevia, when Teilo, who was afterwards canonized, was consecrated its first bishop. The first Bishop under Norman influences, known as Urban, but probably a Welshman from his name Gwrgant, consecrated 1108, commenced the present cathedral in 1120, which was completed by his successors down to Bishop Marshall. The church which Urban found existing was very small, and its entire length *cum porticu* (perhaps an eastern apse) did not exceed 40 ft. In the Early English period the ch. was extended westward as far as the present W. front; the chapter-house, also E. E., having been built somewhat later. The Lady Chapel was added about 1265–87, and was of the first Dec. period, whilst the remodelling of the presbytery, and the walls of the aisles, in choir and nave, belong to the second. The Perp. N.W. tower was built by Jasper Tudor, Henry VII.'s uncle.—*King.* Bishop Godwin writes: "At the end of the 7th centy. so much riches had been bestowed on Llandaff, that, if it enjoyed a tenth part of that which it had been endowed with, it would be one of the richest churches in Christendom." There is doubtless some exaggeration in this statement, but at any rate the see was utterly impoverished at and soon after the Reformation. Holinshed says: "Certes it is a poore bishopricke, and (as I have heard) the late incumbent thereof being called for not long since by the Lord President in open Court, made answer, 'The Taffe is here, but the land is gone.'" At the end of the 17th centy. the gross value of the Bishop's revenues was 230*l.* according to Bishop Beau, who adds that after deductions there was "nothing more of them than would defray the charges of the quantity of vinegar, pepper, salt, and fire spent in my house," and the prebends he estimated as worth 2*l.* apiece. About 1717 the S. tower was "open within from the top to the bottom. In 1720 part of the N. tower followed suit, and by 1723 the ruin of the west end was complete. About that period a proposition was entertained of moving the see to Cardiff.

The only remaining portions of Bishop Urban's Norm. ch. now standing, are the massive Norm. arch dividing the presbytery from the Lady Chapel, a Norm. wall, and portions of two Norm. windows cut into by the present decorated piers. It is to the small size of this ch. that much of the singularity of the present building is owing, for since this time it had never been rebuilt. It has been lengthened, widened, and heightened, but the early Norm. ch. formed the nucleus round which the later additions rose.

The 18th centy. saw Llandaff in its worst and most lamentable state of neglect and decay—its aisles were roofless, grass grew in the nave and the ivy over its windows—the climax being reached when a severe storm blew down the S.W. tower and a great portion of the nave. The choir service, which had for some time ceased to be choral, was then removed into the Lady Chapel. In 1730, however, the sum of 7000*l.* was collected for the purpose of preventing the whole building from going to ruin; and, under the guidance of Mr. Wood, a Bath architect, the Cathedral was made to assume an aspect between a dissenting chapel and a lecture-room, a quasi-Italian temple occupying presbytery, choir, and part of the nave. The Cathedral was spared the crowning insult of a new West front to match (of which a sketch is given

in p. 10 of Mr. King's 'Handbook to the Welsh Cathedrals'), by a providential failure of funds. In 1836, the Rev. H. Douglas, the then precentor, gave up his salary as a commencement of a fund for the restoration in a legitimate manner; and at the appointment, by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, of Dean Bruce Knight (the office having been vacant since the death of Brother Esni, the last Dean, in 1120), the works were vigorously begun in 1844, and carried on still more in earnest by his successor, Dean Conybeare, who utterly effaced the Italian temple. The restoration was entrusted to Mr. Pritchard, the diocesan architect, who was in the earlier portion of the work associated with Mr. Seddon; and it must be allowed, that it has been carried on with great caution and good taste. Between 1846–57, 9000*l.* was expended in the restoration of the Lady Chapel, presbytery, clerestory, roofing the choir and nave, and in the interior work; while those portions of the building which it was not intended then to renovate were judiciously secured and strengthened. The opening of the Cathedral for public worship and for choral services, which had been disused since 1691, gave a fresh impetus to the subscription list, and by the energy and eloquence of the late Dean Williams further improvements were carried out. The Italian wall which Mr. Wood's bad taste had placed across the nave was removed, the W. front restored, the western bays and the side aisles rebuilt, and the chapter-house brought into its former condition. A final and no less successful appeal was made by the Dean for the rebuilding of the S.W. tower with its spire, according to the original plan, and the restoring of the N.W. tower of Jasper Tudor with its crowning pinnacles. This expense of 8000*l.* was met by fresh subscriptions, and a grant from the Commissioners of 5000*l.*; and the whole was finished in 1869. The apathy and carelessness of former bishops and chaplains, as well as of the wealthy inhabitants of the county, have been nobly redeemed, and Llandaff Cathedral is now the pride, instead of the disgrace, of the diocese.

As it at present stands, the "Church on the Taff," as the name imports in English, consists of nave, aisles, choir, Lady Chapel, chapter-house, and two towers at the W. end. As the whole body of the ch. is open, a beautiful effect is produced from the W. door—a fine round-headed E. E. door with a central pendant, and a figure of a bishop, said to represent St. Teilo, in a vesica in the tympanum. The W. front, which in its general arrangement is very like the Cathedral of St. Remigius or Rheims, in France, as it was before a restoration of recent date, is an exquisite specimen of the Pointed style. Mr. King likens its design to that of the W. front of Ripon Cathedral, which is much larger and grander, but inferior in grace and variety of arrangement.

In the 2nd story are a central and 2 smaller side windows, which, with their intermediate piers, are faced by an arcade of 5 lancet arches, resting on their shafts and set off with E. E. moulding.

The top story presents an early Pointed arcade, rising to the centre, so as to correspond with the gable, in which is an image of Our Lord in glory, with the right hand upraised in benediction, the left supporting the Book of Life. A very similar figure in bronze may be seen on the old cover of the 'Liber Landavensis,' now in possession of P. B. Davies-Cooke, Esq., Owston Park, Doncaster. The Lady Chapel is constructed in the variety of early Dec. which the late Dean Conybeare denominated Tangential from the style

of the windows, viz., lancets of two lights, supporting a circle on the backs of their arches. Unlike the rest of the Cathedral, the Lady Chapel has a stone vault.

The nave and W. half of the choir are pure but peculiar E. E., belonging to the first half of the 13th centy.; the pier shafts have a slightly elliptical section, and the foliage of the capitals is liliaceous.

The S.W. and N.W. doors in the aisles may be referred to about 1160, and are fine specimens of late Norm., the former being most rich in decoration, and having a moulding resembling an Etruscan scroll; the latter is surmounted by a dog-tooth moulding, and is a valuable example of the E. E. feature combined with decided Norm. Both from style and position, it is improbable that these doors belonged to the old Norm. ch., which did not extend so far, but terminated one bay W. of the present choir arch. The smaller portals eastward in each aisle are Decorated.

The chapter-house, attached to the S. side of the ch., is of the Transition style from Norm. to E. E., and consists of 2 stories, the lowest of which has a vaulted roof, springing from a cylindrical column; it is lighted by narrow trefoil windows. The upper story has been rebuilt in an octangular form with an octangular conical roof, crowned with a figure of the Archangel Gabriel.

The arch from the choir into the Lady Chapel is a splendid Norm. example, and was the work of Bishop Urban, who presided over the see in 1120. It will be worth while to compare it with the arch from the choir into the ambulatory beyond it in the neighbouring cathedral of Hereford, which may have influenced the builders of Llandaff, begun shortly after Hereford was completed.

The side walls of the choir or presbytery are also Norm., although pointed arches of the 12th centy. were afterwards added; and in the S. wall a curious appearance is presented by an interpolated pointed arch intersecting an original Norm. window. That the same additions were made to the N. wall was clear from the fact that, during the restoration, a Norm. stringcourse was discovered running along it. The presbytery, or choir, presents a most beautiful appearance from the chasteness of the execution and the richness of the carving, particularly conspicuous in the Norm. arch in front of the Lady Chapel, with its rich exterior moulding consisting of circlets dotted with round studs and enclosing eight flower-petals turned inwards; in the reredos of Caen stone, with side shafts of polished marble, behind the high altar, the arches of which have been filled by three original pictures representing David as king and shepherd, and the Nativity, by Dante Gabriel Rossetti; and in the sedilia, with their highly enriched canopies. The font designed by Seddon, representing subjects from the history of Noah, and the pulpit, with designs by Woolner of Moses, David, John the Baptist, and S. Paul, are well worth attention. The mediæval reredos, which was found on removing the stucco of the Italian temple, being too far gone for repair, has been carefully preserved in the N. presbytery aisle.

The wood carving of the Bishop's throne, and the stalls for the chapter and choir, are extremely good and well worthy of careful examination. The organ, a fine one, by Gray and Davidson is placed on the N. of the choir. It is decorated with words and figures illustrative of the Benedicite.

There are some good monuments in the ch., though sadly mutilated. The reputed tomb of Teilo, the effigy now existing thereon being of early decorated character, is by the sedilia, on the S. of the presbytery. Before this tomb it used to be the custom

for people making purchases of land, or giving gifts to the church, to swear to their bargain. This tomb was opened in 1736, and a contemporaneous record was found on the wall in 1850, stating that certain relics were fouud therein. That of St. Dubritius, whose relics were replaced by Urban, was placed by tradition nearly opposite that of Teilo, but the effigy, possibly of even date with the latter, is now placed in the N. aisle, where are also to be seen those of Bishops Bromfield, 1393, and Marshall, 1496; an emaciated figure in a winding-sheet; Sir William Mathew of Radyr, ancestor of the late Earls of Llandaff, and his wife 1528–30. Also a beautiful modern monument to Henry Thomas, Esq., of Llwynmadoc, in Breconshire, for 18 years Chairman of Glamorganshire Quarter Sessions. The design is by Prichard, the figures by Armstead. At the extreme E. end we find the tombs of Sir David Mathew, standard-bearer to King Edward IV., and of Sir Christopher Mathew, a knight of gigantic stature, and his wife, 1500.

In the S. aisle is an effigy of a Bishop unknown, a large slab with floreated cross and much worn inscription in Norm. French, and at the extreme E. end an effigy of Lady Audley in a long robe, and close muffler, with two monks bearing escutcheons at her feet. In the Lady Chapel on the N. side of the altar is the effigy of Bishop William de Bruce (variously spelt), 1287, and on the wall a Brass in memory of Bishop Copleston, 1849.

A curious painting on boards, which formed part of Bishop Marshall's throne, was discovered during the restoration, and placed in the Bishop's palace. It represents the Virgin ascending through the starry firmament supported by angels. Some play on musical instruments, while one holds an escutcheon with the arms of the Bishop and See. The Bishop is on the right, with a scroll proceeding from his mouth bearing the words, "O Virgo scandens, sis Marshall coelica pandens." And further, in order to preserve some memorial of the vicissitudes of the past, the wooden pilasters and cornices of the Italian temple were placed in the Bishop's Library, and in the garden the two urns which adorned its W. end, with a Latin inscription by Bishop Ollivant, as well as the original cross from the W. gable, and other relics.

The N.W. tower is said to have been built by Jasper Tudor, Duke of Bedford, who received from Henry VII. the lordship of Glamorgan, and died childless 1495. It is Perp., and crowned with an open-worked parapet with rich pinnacles, like that of St. John's, Cardiff. Three of the angles have turrets of uniform design, and the fourth, in which is the staircase, has a short spire.

The S.W. tower was the last and almost the most important work of the whole restoration; for as nothing of the old one, blown down in a storm, remained, the architect had to create as well as build a new one. It is of Dundry and Campden stone, and consists of a massive tower with buttresses at the W., S.W., and S.E. angles, terminating in open canopies with pyramidal roofs, each canopy containing a figure, viz., St. Peter, St. Paul, and the late Dr. Ollivant, during whose episcopate the finishing stroke was given to the work. Connecting the tower with the roof of the S. aisle is a range of arches, filled with seated figures of the Apostles. The tower and spire rise to a height of 195 ft. 7 in. The tower is 104 ft. in height, and is of 3 stories, the uppermost being the belfry, the windows in which are flanked by niches filled with figures representing all nations. "Above the arches of these windows protrude in watchful attitude the heads of those men who have most distinguished themselves in the conver-

sion of the nations over the types of which they are placed." The modern stained-glass in the Cathedral is of various merit; that of Morris and Marshall attracting deservedly the most attention. It is much to be desired that the wealthy county of Glamorgan should put a finishing touch to this great restoration by subscribing for a new West window, the completion of the figures in the canopies of the stalls, the building of the flêche to break the length of roof, together with a few lesser details. A large sum is also required to make the ancient W. end thoroughly secure, for the present (1889) condition of the supports of the old N.W. tower is such as to cause great anxiety.

A single shaft raised upon steps, composed in part of Dundry stone, and in part of that of St. Donat's, marks the grave of Dean Conybeare, and an Irish cross of new Radyr stone that of Bishop Ollivant. On the picturesque slope above the cathedral stood formerly the 13th centy. Campanile, or Bell-tower, of which but fragments remain. Hard by, the new Deanery and Canons' residence have been built.

One residentiary house at present suffices for the four canons, three months about. Similar modern houses have been built for the officiating clergy, for the schools, and for the Probate registrar's office. A valuable and extensive library was formerly attached to the cathedral; but the books and MSS. having been removed, with many other treasures of equal value, for security to Cardiff Castle during the civil war, were wantonly destroyed by the fanatical Puritan soldiery upon the fall of that stronghold. The Chapter, however, is now in possession of the greater part of the library of the late Bp. Ollivant. At the end of the village are the ruins of the **Bishop's Palace**, said to have been spoiled by Owain Glyndwr. The gatehouse is tolerably perfect, and is the entrance to the Bishop's residence and garden. The chapel was erected in Bp. Ollivant's time by *Christian*. The village contains vestiges of several ancient buildings. A girls' **College**, named *Howell's Charity*, erected in a commanding situation on the Cardiff road, affords maintenance and education for 30 foundationers, besides 30 paying boarders and day scholars, from moneys bequeathed in the reign of Henry VII. to the Drapers' Company to provide marriage portions for the testator's female descendants. There is a similar building at Denbigh, for giving the same advantages to North Wales.

Some way from Ely st. on Leckwith Hill above the r. or western bank of the river Ely, is the ancient ch. of Landough.

Close around Llandaff are Rookwood (Col. F. E. Hill), Fairwater (E. W. David, Esq.), and the new and conspicuous mansion of J. H. Insole, Esq., a large colliery proprietor. A mile to the N.W. is Radyr, once the seat of the ancient family of Mathew.

[8 m. on l. of **Ely** St. is **Sully** House (Lord Wimborne). The late eminent geologist, Dean Conybeare, was for many years resident rector of Sully.

Sully Island is of small area, containing probably the smallest camp in Britain. In the church, which is much modernised, are the monuments of the family of Thomas of Llwyn-madoc, and an E. E. piscina. Near it is a fragment of the castle, also of E. E. date.

At **Cogan Pill**, between Sully and Cardiff, is an old house, the seat of the Herberts of Cogan.

1 m. l., on a hill, is **Caerau** Church, standing in the enclosure of a camp, whence its name is derived. Some have placed here the "Tibia Amnis"

of the Itineraries, though it seems difficult to understand why it should not have been at Cardiff. Beyond, 2 m. further, is **Court-yr-alla** (Lieut.-Col. Rous), corrupted from Court-yr-raleigh, it having long been a seat of the Raleighs of Nettlecombe. Near it are the ruins of **Dinas Powis Castle**, built by Iestyn ap Gwrgant *circ.* 1000 A.D. They are the property of the Rev. H. T. Lee, of the Mount.]

33 m. **St. Fagan's** Stat. On rt. the castle, church, and village crown a steep bank, at the bottom of which runs the Ely (Afon-lai, slow river).

The **Castle** (Lord Windsor) was built in the 12th centy. by Sir Peter de Vele, and the present picturesque high-gabled square house placed within its court by the Gibbon family, from whom it came to the Lewises of the Van, of whom the present owner is representative. The church and village were almost rebuilt by the late Hon. R. H. Clive, whose son, the Hon. Robert Windsor Clive, the father of the present Lord Windsor, died in the midst of completing his sire's good work of restoration here. The designs are by Street, and the painted glass is very good.

At the **battle** of St. Fagan's the Welsh insurgents, presbyterians and royalists, to the number of 8000, who had risen to resist the growing power of the Independents, were defeated with great loss (1648) by Col. Horton, when many out of the best Glamorganshire families were killed.

[2 m. l. **Coedriglan**, the seat of the late Rev. J. M. Traherne, whose collections for the history of Glamorgan are reported to be very extensive.

3½ m. l. **Wenvoe** (R. Jenner, Esq.), a modern house, built by the Thomas family on the site of an old castle.

7 m. l. **Barry** Castle and Island, the former in ruins. The latter is accessible at low water, and presents a fine sandy bay and some good sections of the magnesian and mountain limestone, &c.

8 m. l. **Porthkerry** (the Romilly family), above a valley of exceeding beauty, opening out into the sea.

4 m. l. **Dyffryn** (A. C. Bruce Pryce, Esq.); and at **St. Nicholas**, hard by, is a cromlech, sometimes called Castell Corrig, and considered to be the largest in Britain. The capstone of this cromlech at its utmost length is 22 ft. 9 in. by 15 ft. 3 in. wide, and 3 ft. 6 in. thick, supported at the E. end by 3 props: the 1st measuring 5 ft. 5 in. in height by 2 ft. 9 in. wide; the 2nd, 3 ft. 5 in. by 6 ft. 8 in. wide; the 3rd, 3 ft. 4 in. by 4 ft. 10 in. The W. end is supported by one prop, 11 ft. 8 in. wide by 2 ft. 10 in. high, and the N. end by one prop also, 13 ft. 8 in. wide by 5 ft. high. The remains of the original mound are still visible. There is a second cromlech known as St. Lythan's Cromlech, or Maes y Felin, ¾ of a mile off on the opposite side of the road to Dyffryn Lower Lodge, of very remarkable dimensions. Mr. Lukis, in a paper of the 'Arch. Cambrensis' for 1875 (p. 171 foll.), gives them as follows: Height to top of capstone, 11 ft. 8 in.; length, 14 ft. 8 in. by 10 ft., and 2 ft. 6 in. thickness. Height of S. prop, 9 ft. 11 in. by 11 ft. 6 in., and 1 ft. 6 in. in thickness. The N. prop is 9 ft. 10 in. high, by 10 ft. wide, and 1 ft. 9 in. thick. The western prop is 7 ft. 6 in. high by 4 ft. 8 in. thick, and has a circular hole near the top. A third cromlech is near Cotterell: the names of places in the neighbourhood favour the Druidical theory. Thus Dyffryn Golych is the Valley of Worship, Cotterell a corruption of Coed-yr-Hoel, &c. These cromlechs, with Arthur's Stone in Gower, represent the chief prehistoric monuments in Glamorganshire. At St.

Lythan's is a curious little ch., with monuments to the Button family.

9 m. l. **Fonmon** Castle (O. H. Jones, Esq.) was built by Sir John de St. John soon after the conquest of Glamorgan. The keep, a rectangular building 45 ft. high, and 25 ft. north and south, by 43 ft. east and west, appears to be late Norman and part of the original building. It is enclosed on two sides and part of a third by additions, probably of E. E. and E. Dec. date. The principal additions on the north are of the 17th centy., and were not erected with a view to defence.—[G. T. Clark, Med. Milit. Arch.] It was purchased about 1655 from the St. Johns of Bletsoe by Col. Philip Jones, the celebrated Parliamentary commander, ancestor to the present owner. Philip Jones was second of the Commissioners "for the Celtic propagation of the Gospel in Wales," and was raised by Cromwell to his House of Peers, and made comptroller of his household. In the castle may be seen portraits of Cromwell and Ireton, and of Mr. Robert Jones, great-grandfather of the present owner, by Sir J. Reynolds. Fonmon was often visited by John Wesley, whose chamber is still preserved and honoured at Fontigary, an adjacent farm-house. Oliver Cromwell's great-grandfather, Sir Richard Williams, whose mother was a sister of Thomas Cromwell the "Hammer," was a native of the neighbouring parish of Llanishen. Near Fonmon is **Aberthaw,** situated at the mouth of the Cowbridge river, celebrated for its hydraulic lime, obtained from the lias pebbles on its beach. Near it also are the ruins of Penmark, Castleton, and *E. and W. Orchard* Castles; these two latter were, however, rather fortified houses than castles, and were built by some Flemish horticulturists, who, in the reign of Henry I., long supplied the King's garden with fruit and trees from here.]

Leaving St. Fagan's, on the l. are ruins of **St. George's,** and on r. of **Peterston** Castles.

36 m. **Peterston** Stat. [On rt. 1 m. is *Cotterell* (late Admiral Sir G. Tyler) and *St. Nicholas Church* and Rectory.

2 m. l. **Bonvilstone** (R. Bassett, Esq.), and 1 m. farther the disparked and ruined house of *Llantrythid,* the old seat of the Mansels, Bassetts, and Aubreys.]

Passing l. the fine but comparatively modern (viz. 1723–25) castellated mansion of **Hensol** (late Rowland Fothergill, Esq.), which enclosed the old house of Judge Jenkins, ancestor of the Earl of Shrewsbury, who is Earl Talbot of Hensol, and not far from Miskin Manor, a modern mansion on an ancient property, and Tal-y-garn, the residence of G. T. Clark, Esq., the well-known antiquary, the traveller arrives at 40 m. Llantrissant Junct.

A branch line from the Taff Vale here crosses the South Wales Rly. to Cowbridge.

[1 m. on rt. are the hæmatite iron mines of Cornel and *Mwyndy,* in which the ore is worked open-cast like a quarry. Leland says in his 'Itinerary,' "There are two faire parkes by south of Llantrissant, now unimpalid and without deere. There is yren now made in one of these parkes, named Glinog." The discovery of these deposits has not affected materially (as it was first thought they would) the iron-works of the South Wales basin.

2 m. to the N. is the quaint town of **Llantrissant** (the Church of Three Saints), finely situated on a range of hills, and presenting a picturesque and rather continental appearance. It is, however, a dirty

little place, a nearer inspection of which will scarcely repay the tourist, save for the view from the Graig, above the churchyard, which embraces a large extent of country, including nearly the whole of the Ely valley. The ch. is Norm. There are traces of a considerable camp on the hill to the rt. Here also is the ruin of an Edwardian castle, which in the division of lands by Fitzhamon fell, with Caerphilly, to Einion ap Collwyn. It is mentioned by Leland as having in his time two wards, and the inner dyked.

2 m. N. of the town is **Castellau** House (Mrs. Smith), formerly belonging to the Traherne family.]

From Llantrissant Junct. there is a branch rly. to Cowbridge, 6 m., passing, 3½ m., **Ystrad Owen** Stat., where there is a ch. and a mound hard by, which has the appearance of having been intrenched.

ȸ **Cowbridge** is a pleasant little town, principally known for its grammar school, endowed by Sir Leoline Jenkins, Secretary of State in the reign of Charles II., and connected with Jesus College, Oxford. The endowment is small, but the college has spent 5000*l.* or 6000*l.* upon the buildings, and has made considerable exertions to raise the character of the school. It is said that Pelagius and Judge Jeffreys—questionable men both—were natives of the town, although Acton Park, near Wrexham, was clearly the birthplace of the latter.

The **Church** (which is a chapel of ease to Llanblethian) is singular, having a north aisle to the chancel, and a south one to the nave. In the chancel, which is divided by an old oak screen, are return stalls, in which the masters and boys of the grammar-school sit and have their special service. On the W. chancel wall is a tablet to the memory of Benjamin Heath Malkin, LL.D., the author of a by no means contemptible history of South Wales of the last generation, and there are some old monuments in the body of the ch. to the Jenkinses of Hensol and others. Cowbridge was formerly called Pontvaen, and was thought by some to be the site of the ancient Bovium, but the mass of evidence seems to point to Boverton as the true site.

Cowbridge was anciently fortified, and the walls, buttresses, and a gateway remain nearly perfect on the S. side.

An interesting, though circuitous, excursion can be made from here through Llantwit and Ewenny to Bridgend.

1 m. l. of the town is **Llanblethian,** occupying a fine situation, overlooking the town and vale of Cowbridge, of which it is the mother church. Here is the ruined castle of **St. Quentin's,** of which little remains save the gateway, grooved for a portcullis, and some fragments of the outer curtain. The keep was in the centre, but is quite effaced.

On the opposite hill is **Penlline** Castle (the seat of J. Homfray, Esq.). The keep retains some Norman herring-bone work. The drive towards Penlline gives a good idea of the neighbourhood, and may embrace, in returning, Llanblethian, St. Quentin's, the Old Mill, and the College, as well as Cowbridge Ch.

Penlline Court (Dr. Salmon) is at the back of the hill on which the castle is situated.

A little to the S. of Llanblethian is the castellated mansion of **Llandough** (Mrs. Stacey), and to the l., in the valley of the Thaw, are the remains of **Beaupré** (pron. Beauper) House (Mrs. Bassett), the ancient seat of that family, the only one now remaining, in the male line, of the original Norman settlers. Beaupré was purchased in the reign of Henry II. by Sir Philip Bassett,

Lord Chief Justice, a descendant of John Bassett, Chancellor to Fitzhamon. It is a curious mixture of Greek with Gothic architecture, the ornamental portions of which were executed by a native artist named Richard Twrch, a common mason, temp. Edward VI., who acquired some fame as an architect, though the porch at Beaupré is the only acknowledged specimen of his workmanship existing.

5½ m. the ancient town of **Llantwit Major,** where a very famous school of divinity existed, said to have been founded by Bp. Germanus about the middle of the 5th centy. St. Iltyd, or Iltutus, upon whose institution the name of the place was changed from Caer Wrgan to Llan-Iltyd, and to whom the ch. is dedicated, was appointed to preside over the college,—a post which he is said to have retained for more than 90 years. The school became one of the most celebrated of its age, but was sadly shorn of its influence when, at the time of the Norm. conquest, Robert Fitzhamon transferred a large portion of its revenues to the abbey at Tewkesbury. It still existed, however, up to the time of the Reformation, when a finishing blow was given to its prosperity by the transfer of its remaining endowments to the Chapter of Gloucester Cathedral. St. Iltyd, independently of his being a sound theologian, was no contemptible handicraftsman, and the kind of plough invented by him, and still called after his name, may be seen in use in some of the remoter districts of Wales to this day. Llantwit boasts among its scholars Gildas, the historian, St. David (?), Paulinus, Archbp. Sampson, with whom ended the archiepiscopal jurisdiction of St. David's, Talhaiarn, and Taliesin "Penbeirdd," the chief of bards.

Many of the abbots of Llantwit were bishops of Llandaff, and the brethren of Llantwit monastery are said to have had for their habitations 400 houses and 7 halls.

The **Church** is the most interesting relic. What is called the new church, which is apparently the older of the two, is of the time of the 13th centy., and possesses a nave, aisles, and chancel, with a good rood-screen, in which are vacant niches, said to have contained images of the 12 apostles. In the S. aisle is a wall niche, the decoration of which consists of a vine climbing up its sides and twisting round 14 crowned heads. At the top is the Saviour's with the crossed nimbus. The lower part with the figure of Jesse is in the W. building. The niche (13th centy.) may have contained a figure of the Virgin. The capitals of the S. side are of E. E., though there have been alterations down to the Perp. period. The font is Norm. There are also some mural paintings in the church; our Saviour and Mary Magdalen on the N., and the fall of man on the S. of the chancel. The western portion (part of the original plan) is called the "Old Church," though more than a centy. later than the eastern, and this name Mr. Freeman thinks it got from having been originally the *parochial church*, but having at the Dissolution been deserted for the larger ch. of the monks, which thus became the *new* church of the parishioners —*C. A. J.* In this adjoining old church are some extremely old and curious tombs—particularly a coped stone with a row of lozenge-shaped compartments down the middle, an arabesque ornament on one side and a series of interlaced rings on the other. The inscription on the side is "Ne petra calcetur que sub jacet ista tuetur." This stone was brought here in 1730 from a placed called "Great House," where a chapel had formerly existed. At the W. of the

old church are the remains of the Lady Chapel, about 40 ft. in length. Some interesting stones stand in the ch.-yd., one of pyramidal form, probably Runic, on the S., and the shaft of a cross (the head destroyed by the Roundheads), erected by Bishop Samson in memory of St. Iltyd, bearing an inscription which has been thus deciphered: "Crux Iltuti, Samson redis, Samuel excisor. Samson posuit hanc crucem pro anima ejus." Dr. Carne identifies this Samson with the Archbp., who went over and died at Dol, in Brittany, and whose rescue of Indual (query "Juthakel," below), is recorded in the 'Liber Landavensis.' The other stones—which were disinterred and raised to their present site through the exertions of the eminent bard and antiquary Iolo Morganwg—seem also to have formed the shafts of crosses, one of which bears an inscription relative to Juthakel, King of Glamorgan, and Artmael, King of Gwent. The inscription upon the other refers to its having been set up by Howell, Prince of South Wales, upon his absolution by the Church for the murder of his brother Rhys. Adjoining the W. chapel, is what may have been the sacristan's house, with 2 later monuments of Henry VIII.'s date. It would seem that one represents a Lady Hopkins, though an attempt to read an imperfect inscription has led to a lady with a young child being mistaken for a prince, a female for a male. The costume cannot be doubtful. To the N. of the tower is a slab to the memory of Michael Voss, who died in 1534, aged 129. There are also crosses in the churchyard and village. The other antiquities in Llantwit are the Castle, or rather a castellated house, and the **Town-hall**, built by Gilbert de Clare, a picturesque old building, with a flight of steps to it, and gable bell, with an inscription. The so-called bell of the saint in the town-hall, is much later than supposed, though its legend, "Sancte Iltute, ora pro nobis," connects it with the church and its famous school in sentiment. In the 'Annals of the Welsh Counties,' by Dr. Nicholas, it is stated that Dr. Nichol Carne, of St. Donats, the owner of Llantwit, offered as a free gift 6 acres of land, embracing the very site of the ancient building, for the site of a University Coll. for South Wales, at the time when that scheme was in embryo. Nothing is to be seen inside. Considerable remains of Roman villas have quite recently been discovered at Llantwit, and afford further evidence of the settlements of that people along the great maritime road, and of the friendly terms on which they lived amongst the conquered Welsh.

1 m. to the S.E. is the village of **Boverton**, thought by some to be the Bovium of Antoninus, though others place it at Cowbridge. This was for some time a residence of the Lords of Glamorgan; the castle and manor, however, reverted to the Crown in the reign of Richard III. Henry VII. granted the lordship of Glamorgan and its appanages to Jasper, Duke of Bedford, who afterwards lay concealed at Boverton until his friends had succeeded in obtaining pardon for the murders that he had committed. As a mark of gratitude to his tenant, Griffith Voss, who had warmly interested himself in the duke's behalf, he granted him a life interest in the estates. The manor of Boverton is now the property of Lord Wimborne. The fortified manor-house still exists in a ruinous condition.

1 m. **Dimland**, a seat of I. N. Carne, Esq. On the coast, about 2 m. apart, are two camps, probably Roman; one of these, about ½ m. from Llantwit, is called the *Castle Ditches*, and consists of a triple line of very lofty embankment about 100 yds. in length.

At **Tressilian** (Dr. Carne), a little beyond, and about ½ m. from the road between St. Donats and Llantwit, a good many caves are accessible in the cliffs, in one of which tradition asserts that marriages were celebrated. There is also a curious ebbing and flowing well.

1½ m. **St. Donat's** Castle, commanding a beautiful view over the Channel, while the church nestles snugly in a wooded dingle, running down to the shore. The castle, built by Sir W. Stradling, and for 6 centuries the seat of that family, and now the property of I. N. Carne, Esq., D.C.L., is an extensive and interesting castellated building, which the owner is carefully restoring, and bringing gradually back to its pristine characteristic features. The gateway is curiously carved, and there are singular medallion circles over it and over the doors in the quadrangular court, which is battlemented, each merlon being pierced with an eyelet. There is a good oriel window in the court, and the state apartments contain much fine wood-carving by Grinling Gibbons, and other artists of his time; one of these rooms has a very elaborate *copper* ceiling, richly carved; and the wainscots and panels which have been required to reclothe the dismantled walls of these, have been purchased with the utmost taste and discrimination. Archbishop Usher resided here for some time as a guest during the troubles. In the old picture gallery, which was burnt on the night when the last of the Stradlings was "waked," if we may use an Irish expression, there are distinct traces of a secret chamber on the side facing the S., and of a fireplace in that chamber. This is held by the owner classic ground, on account of its learned sometime tenant, the fugitive archbishop. The church contains the Stradling chapel, in which are some curious paintings on panel of the 16th centy. relative to that family; also a monument to Sir Thomas Stradling, who is supposed to have died issueless in 1738, aged 28, and the last of his race, who had possessed the castle for 700 years. This Sir Thomas was run through the body at Montpelier by a certain Tyrwhitt in a brawl arising out of a love affair, and his body was brought home to be buried some six months after his death. The stories current about the corpse being a substituted corpse, which the old nurse ascertained by a test best known to herself, may be fanciful, but we believe that the present owner is on the maternal side the lineal representative of the Stradlings, the paternal line being quite extinct. The ch.-yd. is a delighful little nook, and carefully tended. The visitor should remark the cross, one of the most elegant in Wales, the subject on the head being the Crucifixion. The ch. is early Norm., with some later changes. On the opposite bank are the ruins of a watch-tower, said to be erected for the purpose of giving intelligence to the lord of St. Donat's of wrecks, for which, and for the fearful practice of wrecking, this coast had obtained an infamous notoriety. The view from the library and from the old picture gallery, looking over a series of hanging gardens down upon the sea, is very perfect; and in few places can such a pleasant blending of sequestered sylvan scenery and wooded dingles, with a maritime prospect, be so quickly realised. In these gardens the myrtle grows in the open air into a goodly shrub.

1½ m. **Monknash**; where are ruins of a monastic barn and buildings, which formerly belonged to the priory of Ewenny. A ch. marks the spot on the rt. of the road from Bridgend to Llantwit.

Near **Marcross** is a cromlech, called the Old Church, and the

fragments of a castle may be seen in the same neighbourhood.

2 m. on l. is **Dunraven Castle**, the in part modern seat and inheritance of the Earl of Dunraven, occupying a romantic situation on a rocky promontory called Trwyn y Witch (or the Witch's Nose), projecting into the sea, at a height of 100 feet above it, between two deeply indented bays. Near it formerly stood stood the Castle of Dundrivan (Castle of the Three Halls), where, according to tradition, Caradoc formerly kept his summer court. FitzSimon bestowed the castle and manor upon William de Londres, and he gave them to Sir Arnold Butler, one of whose female descendants conveyed them by marriage to the father of that Walter Vaughan who, if we may give credit to the story, was in the habit of alluring vessels to the coast by putting out false lights, that he might profit by the wrecks driven ashore, to which he was entitled as lord of the manor. In the very midst of his crimes, however, he lost his own three sons in one day, and a fourth, the eldest, shortly afterwards, and, looking on this event as a judgment from heaven on his iniquities, he sold the estate to the family of Wyndham and retired to Tenby, where he died, and where his tomb may be still seen in the church. Some curious caverns are worn by the sea in the rock beneath the castle. Through one of them, called the Wind Hole, the sea is forced at times in lofty jets. On the opposite side of the bay is the watering-place of **Southerndown**, containing a few lodging-houses and a pretty good inn. The coast is about 300 ft. high, and is interesting to the geologist from the horizontal stratification of the lias limestone, giving the cliffs a most peculiar appearance. *Fossils* are plentiful, especially Ammonites and Gryphæa incurva. There are dangerous currents off the shore at Southerndown, which have been the cause of several losses of life to bathers.

1 m. **St. Bride's Church** (Early Norman, with later additions), restored in 1853, contains an incised slab and richly carved altar-tomb to the Boteler family of Dunraven, with the effigy of a knight, legs crossed, armed with a hauberk, and chausses of mail, and wearing a long surtout, open in front. There is a good Norman font, and two pairs of squints of different dates. A stone coffin is placed under the N. wall in the churchyard.

Passing over **Ogmore Down**, where the mountain limestone reappears, and skirting the wooded valley of Ewenny Park, the traveller arrives at (2 m.) **Ogmore** Castle, a very remarkable example of a small square Norman keep, with the fragments of the curtain which enclosed the outer court, prettily situated at the junction of the Ogmore and Ewenny, which is here crossed by a bridge of stepping-stones. Not much is left of the castle except the keep. Looking towards the sea, the view is intercepted by the enormous sand-hills which infest and advance upon the coast nearly as far as Briton Ferry. At the western end of the Down, under a hill, is a curious and abundantly-supplied spring, 15 ft. wide by 3 in depth, called by the country-people "Schwyl," which, upon issuing from its fount, divides itself into two streams, one of which contains soft water, the other hard.

On the opposite side of the Ogmore is **Merthyr Mawr** (J. C. Nicholl, Esq.), in whose grounds are two fine sculptured crosses, In the restoration of the ch. here several incised stones and slabs, of various dates, were placed under the E. wall; among them a Paulinus stone and a pillar-stoup. Follow-

ing the course of the Ewenny 1½ m., the visitor arrives at the ancient and venerable priory of **Ewenny**, adjoining which, and forming part of the buildings, is the seat of Col. Turbervill. It was an old monastic edifice, founded by Morice de Londres, some times after the Conquest, for monks of the Benedictine order. The church and all the conventual buildings were surrounded by strong walls, many of which still exist; the principal gateway was defended by a portcullis, and is in good preservrtion. The **Church** is probably the best specimen in Wales of a fortified ecclesiastical building, of the union of castle and monastery in the same structure. It was a cross ch. with chapels opening into the N. side of the presbytery and E. side of the S. transept, but the chapels with the N. transept have long been removed. The tower is of very massive construction, with battlements pierced with cross eyelets and buttresses of enormous thickness. The nave, now used as the parish church, is shut off from the rest, and has a blocked arcade of pure Norm. on the W. wall. The choir and presbytery are the finest examples of Norm. in the Principality. The roof is a fine specimen of Romanesque vaulting. Over the 3 western bays is a barrel vault, but the eastern bay has groined cellular vaulting. The pavement was formed of ancient glazed tiles, curiously emblazoned with coats of arms and devices, and there are tombs of the founder, Morice de Londres, Roger de Remi, and some of the Carne and Turbervill families. The priory is placed on the bank of the Ewenny, which here runs through an extensive marsh. Morice de Londres gave his new ch. to the Abbey at Gloucester in 1141, and the date of his tomb is *circ.* 1150.

The river Ewenny has long been famous for being the habitat of a salmon-like fish of delicious flavour, locally termed the "gwyniad," from the silvery brightness of its scales. The gwyniad varies in weight from ½ lb. to 1 lb., is in season during April and May, and is said to be peculiar to this river.

[On the road between this and Cowbridge, 3 m. from the latter place is a tract of common called the **Golden Mile**, from a tradition that the Welsh chief Iestyn ap Gwrgant here paid down the sum in gold for which he had engaged the services of the Norman Fitzhamon, his 12 knights and 3000 men, to defeat his enemy Rhys ap Tewdwr.

2 m. from Ewenny is Bridgend.]

From Llantrissant Junction the rly. runs through a wooded district, with occasional coal-works. At Llanharry, too, a bed of iron-ore was found, with remains of Roman workings and pottery, showing that that people was well acquainted with the resources of this district.

45¼ m. **Pencoed** Stat. To l. 2 m. is **St. Mary Hill**, celebrated for its annual horse fair, to which dealers from all parts of England resort, and a little beyond it is **Coychurch**, the ch. of which is worth visiting, as forming with Coyty and Ewenny an unusually fine trio of churches for S. Wales. Coychurch was probably a model for the builder of Coyty, from which it differs in having aisles and buttresses. The building is Transitional style from E. E., with a semi-military central Perp. tower, choir, and presbytery, resembling Coyty. The trefoil lancet windows of the presbytery and E. end of the S. transept, with pointed labels, are noteworthy, as are also the clerestory windows on the S. side only, cinquefoiled openings, the large pointed and quatrefoil windows in a lozenge-shaped rear-arch at the W. end of each aisle, and the W. doorway. A sedile and piscina, with a triangular

canopy above its sill, are on the S. side of the chancel, and an ambrey on the N. Two curious effigies of the late 14th centy., and a rude 15th-centy. effigy of Thomas Evans, rector, are now placed in the N. transept. This ch., which may be seen in a morning's drive from Bridgend, after Coyty Ch. and Castle, and before Ewenny, has lately undergone careful restoration. In the ch.-yd. are two crosses of interlaced pattern, besides the usual ch.-yd. cross.

49 m. Bridgend Junct. with the Llynfi Valley Rly. ⅋ **Bridgend** is a neat thriving place, on the Ogmore, which divides it into two portions, Old and New Castle. In the latter district, on a wooded eminence overlooking the town, are the church and vicarage and the remains of the New Castle, consisting of a Norm. doorway and court. What is left of the Old Castle may be seen converted into a barn, at a farm about ½ m. from the town. Both the Ogmore and the Ewenny were amongst the best rivers in the principality for salmon and sewin, but constant whipping has ruined the fishing, and even the most skilled angler may fish all day without obtaining any sport worth mention.

1½ m. from the town, on the road to Tondu, is the County Lunatic Asylum, and about 1 m. to the E. of it, at Paregwylt, a second asylum, recently erected.

2 m. from Bridgend on rt. are **Coyty** Church and Castle. The former, which was judiciously restored in 1859, is a fine cruciform edifice of the 14th centy., with a Dec. tower, containing a massive groined roof. Some of the windows are geometrical, others Dec. The ch. consists of a nave, transepts, choir, and presbytery; the choir under the tower. The door to the rood-loft is approached by a staircase against the W. wall, and supported by two half arches. Beneath these is a stone bench and recess, on which now rest two diminutive monumental figures from the chancel. Under the E. window of the S. side of the presbytery are 3 cinquefoiled recesses, the easternmost containing the piscina, the westernmost prolonged so as to form a proper sedile. An elaborately-carved chest with saddle-back top, and with the emblems of the Passion on the exposed side, stands against the chancel wall, but its use is doubtful. There are two sets of squints in this church, as in some other of the district. There are several monuments; one of them rejoicing in the following inscription:—

"Awake, dvll mortals, see yr. dvbious stay,
Frail is ovr make and life soon posts away;
Myriads of chances take away ovr breath,
And mvltifacious ways there are to death;
Beneath one lies estemd for life and age,
By thvnder forcd to qvit this wordly stage;
Tremendovs death, so svddenly to be
From life's short scene moved to eternity."

The **Castle** is an extensive and fast-decaying ruin. It consists of a circular enclosure rising above the exterior ground, and about 48 yards in diameter. On the N.W. side is a rectangular court 68 yards by 43. The whole is surrounded by a broad ditch. To the E. and facing the ch.-yd. is the principal *gatehouse*, a quadrangular structure with two upper floors, probably built in the time of Richard II., though the windows are of much later date. To the E. of the N. gatehouse, of which only the foundations remain, stand the fragments of a larger building, 37 ft. by 40, probably the *keep*, in the basement of which is a chamber vaulted in eight cells with pointed arches. The first floor contains two vaulted chambers; the second and third stories were roofed with timber. The *round tower* is an interesting feature. It is 18 ft. in diameter, and projects 22 ft. into the ditch,

being connected with the main building by a neck of wall. It contains a basement and two upper floors. The domestic buildings were ranged along the whole S. side of the court.

"The Lordship of Coyty is regarded by the Welsh as an honour of high antiquity, the estate and seat of a royal lineage, and the inheritance of one of the sons of Jestyn, the last native lord of Morganwg."—*G. T. Clark.* After the conquest of that country it was granted by Fitzhamon to Sir Pagan, or Payne, de Turbervill, who is said to have married the heiress of the old Welsh lords. His descendant Sir Gilbert, who married a daughter of Morgan Gam, a descendant of Jestyn, and who was in possession in 1207, was perhaps the builder of the Castle, the oldest parts of which are later than Norman. Coyty Castle passed from the Turbervills into the families of Berkrolles, Gamage, Sydney, and Wyndham, and now belongs to the Earl of Dunraven.

[A very pretty excursion can be made from here to **Maesteg,** 9 m., by the Llynfi Valley Rly., a little line made originally as a tramroad to accommodate the mining valley of the Llynfi, and to bring down the produce to Porthcawl for shipment. Two trains a day start from Bridgend, calling at

5 m. Tondu Junct., where the Porthcawl branch is joined. **Tondu**, a busy mining village, contains the once flourishing iron-works of the Brogdens. The valley of the Llynfi is full of charming and picturesque scenery, and at the head of it is **Maesteg**, a large isolated mining town. It is shut in entirely by ranges of hills, which, higher up the valley at *Glyncorrwg*, become more precipitous and wild. From hence the traveller can cross the mountains between Glyncorrwg and the Vale of Neath, a fatiguing though beautiful walk, or else proceed from Maesteg, across the hills to Cwm Afon, and rejoin the S. Wales Rly. at Aberafon, 7 m. W.]

[Another excursion may be made to **Newton Nottage** and Porthcawl, 5 m. S.W. The Neath road is followed, through the village of Laleston, 1½ m., as far as the turnpike, where a lane turns off to the l., passing **Tythegstone Court**, the seat of the Knight family. Newton Downs, along which a Roman road may be traced, afford extensive views over the Channel. The village of **Newton** is wretched and tumble-down, almost devoured by the encroaching sand-heaps, but the church has a good carved stone pulpit, representing the Flagellation of our Saviour, approached by a passage in the N. wall of the nave with two branches, one on the l. to the pulpit, the other, rt., to the rood-loft; and there is an inscribed stone in the churchyard, near which is a well which flows only when the tide is out. Polybius mentions a like phenomenon at Gades. Newton and its neighbourhood form the scene of a large portion of Mr. R. D. Blackmore's 'Maid of Sker.' **Tymawr,** or Nottage Court, where Queen Anne Boleyn is said to have been a guest, is a quaint old Elizabethan house, which was restored by the late Rev. H. Knight.

Porthcawl is a small harbour, the terminus of the Llynfi Valley Rly., and the outlet of the produce of the Maesteg iron-works. A great deal of money has been spent of late years in making the port safe. One or two lodging-houses and good bathing are to be found there.]

Quitting Bridgend, the line runs up a steep incline between **Stormy Down** on the l. and the millstone grit of **Cefn Cribwr** on the rt., imme-

diately upon which, at a steep angle of inclination, the coal-beds repose. There are numerous collieries at Bryndu and Tondu on rt.

53 m. **Pyle** Stat., celebrated for its excellent building-stone. Here the Llynfi Valley Railway is crossed on its way from Maesteg to Porthcawl. In Pyle churchyard is a fine cross.

3 m. on l. is **Kenfig,** once an important town, where Fitzhamon held a castle, which was destroyed by an overwhelming inundation of the sea in the middle of the 16th centy. A faint *soupçon* of its former grandeur remains in the shape of a chest of ancient charters and records, carefully secured by three keys, in charge of the corporation. A portion of the castle and some ruins of the ancient ch. may be traced amongst the sandhills. In order to prevent the sand from being blown further inland, the tenants of farms adjoining the shore are compelled by strict covenants to plant annually a certain quantity of the *arundo arenaria,* whose roots bind the sand together. The old ch. has been submerged by the sand-deluges; but a fragment of the ancient castle projects above the sand. The present ch. has an early and curious font. The lake at Kenfig, which, although close to the sea, never imbibes any muriatic properties, is traditionally said to occupy the site of a great city. There is a curious upright stone at this place, inscribed both with Roman letters and Ogham characters, and about ½ m. from the ch. is another, much larger, but without any inscription.

2 m. on rt. is **Margam Abbey,** the seat of C. R. M. Talbot, Esq., M.P. and Lord-Lieut. of the county. The house is a modern edifice, designed chiefly by its owner: its principal features are 2 facades and a tower, beautifully situated on a rising ground, backed by a hill 800 ft. high (Mynydd Margam), and covered from top to bottom for about 2 m. with a noble oak wood. The sea-air, however, has exercised considerable influence in keeping down the heads of the trees to a uniform level, none overtopping the rest, so that, at a distance, it looks like a huge clipped hedge. The abbey was founded 1147 by Robert Earl of Gloucester (Fitzhamon's son-in-law), for monks of the Cistercian order, and was sold at the Dissolution to Sir Rice Mansel, of Oxwich Castle, an ancestor of the present owner. The male line of the Mansels of Margam became extinct in 1750. The chief portion remaining is a clustered column of the chapter-house, the beautiful groined roof of which was suffered to fall in 1799. There is an inscribed stone and wheel-cross in the churchyard. The W. end of the abbey has been preserved in the present parish church, which contains monuments of the Bussy, Talbot, and Mansel families. The circular door at the W. end—its mouiding resting on pilasters with knots or bands, repeated in other parts of the building—deserves notice. Giraldus Cambrensis visited this abbey in 1188, after Ewenny; and the Duke of Beaufort, as Lord President of Wales, was welcomed at Margam in 1684.

The modern mansion possesses in its details much originality and beauty, and contains several antique statues, ancient furniture, and some fine paintings by the old masters—among them St. Augustine with the Virgin and Child, by *P. Veronese;* a *Vandyck;* some *Canalettis,* &c. The **orangery,** within the grounds, is celebrated for its fine trees, many of which are 20 ft. high. They were sent over to England by a Dutch merchant as a present to Queen Mary, consort of William III., but

the vessel in which they were shipped becoming a total wreck upon the neighbouring sands, its cargo was claimed by the owner of Margam, Lord of the Manor; and, when he offered to resign them after the Restoration, he was requested by the King to retain them as a gift. There is a gigantic bay-tree here, 80 ft. high: indeed, trees and shrubs of all sorts seem to attain unusual vigour in the mild climate of the Vale of Glamorgan, which permits even the myrtle and arbutus to flower in the open air. Immediately behind the abbey rises a lofty spur, upon which may be traced the remains of a Roman encampment called **Pen-y-Castell.** The site of the camp, as well as the glen beneath, are well worthy of a visit. In the wood not far from the carriage-drive are the ruins of a small chapel or oratory, which formed an appendage to the abbey. Another dependency was **Eglwys Nunydd**, or Nun's ch., about 2 m. S. of Margam, now converted into farmhouse. The ruins of yet another chapel, which seemed to have been placed there for the benefit of travellers who were either about to cross, or who had already crossed the dangerous ford over the Afon, stand near the high road to Aberafon. Several monumental stones occur in this neighbourhood, among the most remarkable of which are the **Maen-y-Dythyrog**, or lettered stone, which stands upon the bare hill-top, about 2 m. from the abbey near a large "agger," and is in all probability sepulchral. This stone is about 14 ft. in height, and bears the following inscription: "Bodvacus hic jacet filius Catotis, Imi pronepos æternali domo." A singular belief obtains among the country people, to the effect that whoever reads the inscription will die within the year. Another stone is thus inscribed: "Senatus populusque Romanus veromanus duo (query, "divo") Tito, divi Vespasiani, F. Vespasiano, Augusto."

Passing the **Taibach** Copper-works, the train arrives at

61 m. **Aberafon** Stat., or more properly Port Talbot, the shipping port of the coal, copper, iron ore, steel and tin-plates from the neighbouring works, more especially the busy manufacturing district of **Cwm Afon,** 2 m. on rt., where are situated the Iron and Steel Works of the Cwm Afon Works proprietors and the Tin-plate Works of the Copper Mines and Tin-plate Co., Limited. A more busy, and at the same time picturesque, place, can scarcely be conceived.

A handsome church, with a lofty spire, shows that Cwm Afon is not utterly devoted to Mammon. On the summit of Foel stands the colossal chimney, to which a flue is carried along the slope of the mountain for 1100 yds. It is 180 ft. high and 15 wide, and cost 4000*l.*, its object being partly to detain those particles of metal which, in the ordinary way, are carried off by the smoke, for which purpose it is accessible by doors, and partly that the enormous mass of copper-smoke vapour might not be allowed to settle in the valley, so as to be prejudicial to the health of the population. At **Pontrhydyven** is a fine water-wheel, set in motion by a stream brought from the opposite side of the valley by a stone aqueduct 460 ft. long.

The Rhondda and Swansea Bay Railway runs up the valley of the Afon, and is open as far as Cymmer, whence a tunnel about 3000 yds. long is now being driven through the mountain to Treherbert in the Rhondda Valley, to which place it is expected that the line will be open before the end of 1889.

The rock of **Craig-afon** presents a singular effect, seeming as though it were blocking up the entire valley. Beyond Port Talbot the line skirts

the shoulder of well-wooded hills, commanding a fine view over the mouth of the Neath, the Mumbles, and bay and town of Swansea, the site of the latter marked by the dense clouds of white copper-smoke everlastingly hanging over it.

On rt. is *Baglan House*, the residence of the Earl of Jersey, once the resort of the poet Mason. A portion of the coping of the churchyard wall is formed by the "Brancvf" inscribed stone. (*See* 'Gent. Mag.,' July, 1861.)

64 m. **Briton Ferry,** the port of Neath, situated at the mouth of the river. Large docks have been formed, and a mineral railway made to convey the produce from Glyn Corrwg and the valley of the Upper Afon down to this port, so that Briton Ferry is fast becoming an important town. The greater part of the place belongs to the Jersey family, who had a villa here. The church is quaint and pretty. This was one of the grand scenes of the old Welsh tourists, and not without good reason, for even within the memory of by no means aged persons, it was one of the loveliest spots in the United Kingdom. Steep hills, clothed to the very summit with giant oaks, a curving bay, where the hanging boughs dipped in the waves, a broad river majestically moving seawards between bold wood-crowned bluffs, a tiny church almost hidden by trees, a perfect gem of a churchyard, and a climate so mild that many of the more tender exotics flourished in the open air,—these were some of the charms of Briton Ferry, which have been obliterated by the creation of the existing busy but singularly dirty little town. The mansion house and estate comprising 40,000 acres at Briton Ferry, was for many generations the property and seat of the Mansels, but it afterwards passed to the Vernons. Lady Vernon bequeathed it to the younger brother of the Earl of Jersey, at whose death it fell to the grandfather of the present Earl. The estate has now been reduced in size to about 8000 acres, occupying a continuous tract from here to the Swansea valley, but it is still very valuable on account of the minerals which underlie nearly the whole of it. *Vernon House* is now a lunatic asylum.

67 m. Neath Junct.

Neath, supposed to have been the Nidum of Antoninus, is prettily situated near the mouth of the river and Vale of Neath, or Nedd, which here opens out to a considerable breadth. It enjoys much prosperity, placed in a coal-district by the resources of which many iron, tin, and copper works are set going. A canal from Abernant brings coal and fire-clay. The Vale of Neath Railway (Rte. 10) is also an important feeder to the S. Wales line, by which communication is given to Merthyr, Hirwain, Aberdare, Pontypool, and the North of England. Another line (Rte. 13) places Neath in connection with Brecon and the Mid-Wales district. A *steamer* runs to Bristol twice a week. In the town are slight remains of the castle, which belonged to Iestyn Ap Gwrgant, and which was burnt in 1231. The parish church is poor, but contains an ancient tower and some hatchments of the family of Mackworth of Gnoll. On the hill above the town stands **Gnoll,** once a seat of the Mackworths, but now the property of C. Evan Thomas, Esq.

In 1888 a Music Hall and Council Chamber, with municipal offices, were erected on ground given to the Corporation by the late Howel Gwyn, Esq. The Hall will hold 1500 people, and will shortly be furnished with an organ, the gift of Mrs. Gwyn.

Several sanguinary battles have been fought in the neighbourhood, between the natives and their Norm. oppressors. In the reign of Stephen

the British forces headed by the sons of Caradoc ap Iestyn (whose lordship extended from the Tawe to the Afon) here attacked the Norm. lords with great spirit, and put them to rout so completely, that all who escaped the sword fled for an asylum to the various castles of Gower. 3000 men are said to have been slain in the conflict. In 1231, Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, and Morgan Gam, enraged by some act of injustice perpetrated by Hubert de Burgh upon the invaders, laid siege to the castle and burnt it, exterminating many of the inhabitants, and setting fire to their houses.

The line, after quitting Neath Stat., makes a great bend, passing on l. the beautiful ruins of **Neath Abbey,** defaced by the smoke and coal-dust of the neighbouring extensive copper works. Though now so unsightly and contaminated with black stains, it was originally a structure of great extent and magnificence, and is described by Leland as "the fairest abbey in all Wales." It was founded in 1111 by Richard de Granville of Bideford (one of the companions of Fitzhamon) and his lady Constance, for Grey friars, and finished in 1129. The architect was one Lalys, who also built Margam, and whom de Granvil brought with him on his return from the Holy Land. The famous bard, Lewis Morganwg, who flourished in the beginning of the 16th centy., gives a laboured and glowing description of the glories of this splendid structure. Here the unfortunate Edward II. took refuge after escaping from Caerphilly, and, it is probable, found sanctuary here for some time. From thence, too, he sent envoys, of whom the chief was "Our Beloved in Christ the Abbot of Neath," to treat with his rebellious queen and subjects. But ere long, Edward being anxious to again join his adherents, entrusted himself to the guidance of a faithless monk, who betrayed him at Llantrissant, and his fate soon afterwards was consummated beneath the blood-stained towers of Berkeley. The ruins, which are extensive, are chiefly E. E. and E. Dec., besides later buildings by Sir P. Hoby, erected about 1650. There is a curious crypt called a refectory. At the Dissolution this abbey was granted to Sir Richard Williams, an ancestor of Oliver Cromwell; and passed, later on, to the Hoby family. Even in its desolation, Neath Abbey still looks imposing, though the state of the ruins reflects little credit on their owner. In a field adjoining the house of **Court Herbert,** recumbent beneath a rude, cross-inscribed stone, may be seen the well-sculptured effigy of an ecclesiastic, holding the model of a church.

1 m. to the N. of the abbey in the Clydach valley is **Dyffryn,** the modern seat of Howell Gwyn, Esq.

To the S., on the rt. bank of the Neath, Tennant's Canal runs from Aberdylais to Swansea, and the Neath and Swansea Branch of the Great Western Rly. (Rte. 10) runs parallel with the canal past **Crymlyn Bog.** This extensive swamp of Crymlyn was in ancient times the boundary between the kingdoms of Morganwg and Dyfed, and was at the time probably more like one in appearance than at present. Immense beds of the white water-lilly (*Nymphæa alba*) occupy the bog, and in the season give it quite a brilliant appearance. Crymlyn is said to derive its name from a seat of Druidical worship on its borders, and has been interpreted as meaning the Lake of Homage or Adoration, from "Crym," to bow. A low promontory jutting out into its waters is still called Bânc yr Altar, or the Altar Mount. According to local tradition, the ancient lake of Crymlyn occupies the site of a great city, and it is still a favourite resort of the fairies, who have magnificent palaces

hidden away in the depths, from whence strains of more than mortal music occasionally ring up through the dark waters to human ears. Conan, grandson of Rhys ap Tewdwr, King of Dyfed, was drowned here upon his return from the great battle of Hirwain Wrgan in the 11th centy., which was fatal to that prince. A pool in the bog is still known as Pwl Conan, or Conan's Pool. The remains of an ancient *chapel*, called Capel St. Margaret, may still be seen on the farm of Penissa Coed, adjoining Crymlyn, where an annual hiring fair was held until the chapel fell into ruins, when the fair was removed to Neath.

The high hill of Mynydd Drim, to the W. of the Tawe, intervenes between Neath and Swansea, causing the railway to be carried up a steep incline, at the summit of which is **Llansamlet** Stat., 70 m. It as rapidly descends into the **Vale of Tawe,** which hereabouts, and all the way to Swansea, exhibits an unparalleled scene of desolation, to which a beautiful contrast is offered on the rt. by the distant hills at the head of the Swansea valley. The soil is naturally unfertile. The deleterious influence of the fluoric or arsenical acids from the copper-works arrests the stunted vegetation, so that there are no trees, and instead of grass a dry yellow sickly growth of chamomile barely covers the ground. To the traveller who crosses the **Llandore** bridge at night, the livid glare from the numerous chimneys, the rolling, fleecy, white clouds of smoke which fill up the valley beneath him, the desolate-looking heaps of slag on either side, might well recall Dante's line—

"Voi che entrate, lasciate ogni speranza."

The extensive village to the rt. is **Morriston,** begun in 1768 by the Mr. Morris from whom it gets its name, where the workmen and colliers reside who are employed in the adjacent works. The Tawe is crossed by a viaduct of 95 ft. span.

The river accompanies the railway on the l., lined with the numerous buildings belonging to the Upper Bank, Hafod, Middle Bank, and White Rose Copper-works.

At Llandore Junct. the main line proceeds to Llanelly, while a short branch conveys the traveller to

75 m. Swansea (Rte. 2).

ROUTE 2.

FROM SWANSEA TO MILFORD HAVEN, BY LLANELLY, CAERMARTHEN AND HAVERFORDWEST.

Swansea, which contests with Cardiff the metropolitan supremacy of S. Wales, is situate on the rt. bank of the Tawe (whence its Welsh name of Abertawe), at its mouth, which by means of piers of masonry projecting from either side, forms a convenient harbour opening into the bay of Swansea. It has greatly increased in size, inhabitants, and prosperity, in the last 50 years, within which time the vast resources of the coal-field in the midst of which it is situated, and to which it owes its good fortune, have been explored and brought to bear. Yet it is not a hundred years ago that the first great coal-owner who substituted coal-waggons for the old sacks and packhorses employed to transport his coals to the quay, was threatened by the people with prosecution "for turning the beer in

their cellars sour by the jolting of his heavy carts." The smelting and refining of copper is, and has been since the time of Queen Elizabeth, the staple trade of Swansea and the chief source of its prosperity; the ore being all brought from a distance, not merely from Cornwall and Devonshire, but across the Atlantic and round Cape Horn, from Cuba, the W. coast of South America, and Valparaiso. About 21,000 tons of copper are made at Swansea in the year. It is also the seat of many other industries, chiefly metallurgical. It is the centre of the great tin-plate production of England and the world. There are also large zinc works, nickel, cobalt and lead works, and the largest silver works in England, besides various chemical industries. The **Docks** occupy a considerable space in the heart of the town, but were long found to be inadequate to the growing requirements of the trade. After much delay, a large floating-dock was opened in 1859, formed by the side of the harbour in the Burrows, and a still more magnificent one was added in 1882. These great works have been executed under the administration of a body of harbour trustees. This body has expended in the execution of their trust more than a million and a quarter of money, and have an annual income exceeding £80,000. On the eastern side of the mouth of the harbour the Swansea and Neath Canal has its terminus. A canal also runs up the Swansea valley for a distance of 16 m.

Nearly in the centre of the town, at the back of the post-office, but so hedged in with buildings that it is very difficult to see, stand the remains of the **Castle,** consisting of a tower surmounted by an open gallery, and supporting a very elegantly-carved open parapet of arches—supposed by Leland and others to have been built by Bishop Gower about 1330, since it agrees in style with portions of his palaces at Lamphey and St. David's. This parapet subserved military uses as well as the purpose of ornament. A castle was originally founded here in 1113 by Henry de la Bellemonte, otherwise Newburgh, Earl of Warwick, who introduced into it a garrison of English and Flemish colonists settled in the peninsula of Gower.

In the reign of Edward IV., the heiress of William Herbert, Earl of Huntingdon, then the possessor, conveyed it by marriage to Sir Charles Somerset, an ancestor of the Beaufort family, still Barons of Gower, in whose possession it has remained ever since. It was frequently taken and retaken during the Civil Wars. In 1646 it was ordered that "Swanzey Castle be disgarrisoned and slighted," but Major-General Llaugharne, the recusant Parliamentary leader, having managed to get hold of it, strengthened and repaired the defences, and regarrisoned it for the king. After Llaugharne's defeat at St. Fagan's (1648), Cromwell marched here and remained for some time. The Protector conferred a new charter upon the town, which rejoices in a greater number of similar deeds than any other town in the kingdom. The two earliest charters are supposed to be those granted by King John, long believed to have been lost, but which still exist in the Record Office, and another by William De Breos, who claimed the sovereignty of Gower. A portion of the building is used as a store-room for the militia.

In the parish **Church of St. Mary,** a singularly ugly structure, which, with the exception of the chancel, dates from 1739, when the old ch. fell down,—among other monuments, is that of Lady Elizabeth Gordon, a lady of royal connexion, and daughter of the Earl of Huntley, who was given

in marriage by the King of Scotland to the pretender Perkin Warbeck; she afterwards married Sir Matthew Cradock, a Welshman, and High Steward of Gower. Their tomb lies N. of the chancel in the Herbert chapel, and consists of an altar-tomb of Bath oolite, bearing their effigies. The lady, however, is not buried here, but at Fyfield, in Berks. There is also a fine *Brass* to the memory of Sir Hugh Johnys, of Llandymor Castle, in Gower. The inscription is as follows—

"Praye for the soule of Sir Hugh Johnys, Knight, and Dame Mawde his wife, which Sir Hugh was made Knight at the Holy Sepulchre of our Lord Ihu Crist, in the city of Jerusalem, the xiiij day of August, the yere of oure Lord Gode MCCCCXLJ. And the said Sir Hugh had co'tynuyd in the werris the long tyme before by the span of fyve yers, that is to say Ageynst the Turkis and Sarsyns in the f' tis of Troy, Greece, and Turkey, under John, y^t time Emperoure of Constantynenople, and aftir that was Knight Marshall of ffrawnce under John duke of Som'set by the speice of ffyve yers. And in likewyse aftir that was Knight Marshall of England under the good John Duke of Norfolke, which John gyave unto hym the manno' of Landymo', to hym and to his heyr for ev'rmore, uppon whose soullies Ihu have mercy."

Upon the label issuing from the lady's mouth is "Fiat mi a d'ne supra nos." The church of St. John is built on the site of an ancient chapel of the Knights of Jerusalem. There are some vestiges of an old religious house, St. David's Hospital; the charter of its foundation dating from 1332.

The **Royal Institution** of South Wales is a handsome Grecian building, with a portico, erected in 1840 by a local society for the promotion of science and literature. It possesses a theatre, library, and museum of natural history and geology, in which is an interesting and unique collection of bones of mammoth and other animals found in the limestone caves of Gower; also a series of coal-plants from the district. Swansea Theatre was associated in its early days with the acting of both the Keans, Macready, and C. Mathews, all of whom trod these boards. Here, too, Pugin painted the scenery.—(*Mrs. S. C. Hall.*)

The **Town Hall** is a fine building in the Corinthian style, in front of which stands a monument of the late J. H. Vivian, Esq., M.P.

There is also an excellent public library with an art department containing some valuable engravings and other works of art.

Swansea was formerly resorted to as a bathing and watering place; but fashion has been driven away by commerce, and all the promenades have been swallowed up by the docks, so that many bathers have preferred to retreat to the Mumbles—added to which, the town is not always pleasant as a residence, owing to the copper-works, which fill the air with the fumes whenever a N.E. wind blows.

Gower, the poet, is supposed to have been a native of Swansea, although he really belonged to a Suffolk family. *Beau Nash*, the celebrated master of the ceremonies at Bath, was born in Goat Street, 1673, in a house now removed. *Savage*, the unfortunate poet, resided here.

[One of the most interesting excursions in the Principality can be made from Swansea into the peninsula of **Gower**, interesting from its scenery, antiquarian remains, and the character of its inhabitants, who are usually said to be descended from a Flemish colony settled here by Henry I., but some authorities judging from some pecularities of

language have held them to be immigrants from Somersetshire (*Arch. Cambr.*, 1861). Even at this lapse of time the Gowerians have kept themselves tolerably aloof from their Welsh neighbours, and preserve their distinctiveness in customs, dress, and language. The rly. which leaves Swansea from the *station* in Rutland Place, follows the curve of Swansea Bay, so that the tourist enjoys fine sea views all the way to Mumbles. At **St. Helen's** (Col. Morgan) a road to rt. branches inland, past the pretty church of Sketty, to the Gower Inn, 5½ m. over Fairwood Common.

1½ m. is **Singleton,** the seat of Sir H. Hussey Vivian, Bart., M.P., where art has been happily blended with nature in the management of the grounds, which yield to none in the Principality for beauty. The mansion is Elizabethan, with a pinnacled tower, and superseded a former building, called the Marino. Here there is a collection of antiquities, Roman and Etruscan, and a fine spacious orangery. To the back of Singleton is **Parkwern** (Sir H. H. Vivian, Bart., M.P.); on the high ground to the rt. is **Sketty Park** (Sir J. Armine Morris, Bart.); and higher up **Hendrefoilan** (L. L. Dillwyn, Esq., M.P.). 2½ m. rt. Clyne Park (Graham Vivian, Esq.).

3½ m. The pretty **Norton** village, where fuchsias and myrtles grow at the cottage doors, and beyond which the old ruin of **Oystermouth Castle** breaks in upon the view, finely placed on an eminence overlooking the bay, and backed up by an immense cliff of limestone. It has been partly restored by the Duke of Beaufort, under the antiquarian superintendence of G. G. Francis, Esq., of Swansea. The plan of the castle is irregular, its general figure being an isosceles triangle. The gateway has been flanked by two towers, which have been removed at some early period, so that the inner and concave segment forms now the outer wall, and thus throws forward the gateway. What may be called the keep is certainly the oldest part of the building. This is placed at the N.E. angle, is quadrangular, of 3 stages, heavily buttressed, with recessed chambers in the buttresses. The upper story is the chapel, which still retains five large decorated windows, with mullions partially renewed, as well as the remains of some frescoes. It is all of the same date, E. Dec., and the additions are not much later. This castle is curious for its domestic details. It was probably built by Henry de Bellamonte, the builder of Swansea Castle, to serve as a link in the border chain of castles. Near it is the ch., with a fine embattled tower, and some Perp. windows.

A little beyond is the village and watering-place of ♆ **Mumbles,** which has considerably increased since the formation of the docks spoilt the bathing at Swansea. The easiest way to reach it is by omnibus or branch-railway, as the high road is fatiguing, and not along the coast. It is snugly situated underneath the high escarpment of mountain-limestone cliffs which terminate seawards in two rocky islets, on the furthest of which stands the Mumbles Lighthouse, and almost immediately under which is the first in order of the interesting Gower caves, accessible at low water. Much stone is obtained from the quarries and sent to Swansea. The **Bay,** which is thought by many to bear a strong resemblance to that of Naples in its outline, and indeed was considered by W. S. Landor to be equal if not superior to it in beauty, is seen to advantage from here, and is singularly graceful. Ancient records point to a considerable extent of

wood which has been submerged by the sea, a fact borne out by geological appearances, such as the discovery of trunks of trees, hazel-nuts, &c., at low water.

The sea has made great encroachments here within living memory, and not so many centuries back the high road to Bristol ran along a tract now constantly covered by the waves. The Mumbles *roadstead*, as affording a perfectly secure shelter to shipping in all winds, except those from the N.E., is very important as a harbour of refuge, and many hundred sail are occasionally detained here whilst waiting for more favourable weather. The oyster fishery is valuable, and affords employment to a number of vessels and many men.

At **Lilliput,** close to the village of Norton, Sir W. Logan found a seam of coal cropping out on the sea-shore with only a thin covering of sand.

2 m. W. of the Mumbles is ⚓ **Caswall Bay**, an extremely pretty bit of marine landscape. Here are some copious springs of delicious water, covered at high tide. The pedestrian should walk along the cliffs from the Mumbles by **Langland's Bay** and Whiteshell Point, where the coast is fine and rugged. At the former bay is the marine villa of the Rev. G. H. Davenport.

1½ m. **Pwlldu Head,** a splendid mass of limestone, forming a well-known sea-mark, and the finest headland in the whole peninsula. The pretty woodland glen should be followed to **Bishopston,** 2 m. As is usual in limestone strata, several geological curiosities are to be met with, as enormous pits or depressions, and the disappearance of the river, which runs underground for more than a mile. The rocks in this dingle are known to geologists as the Black Shales of Gower. Bishopston Church has an embattled tower, and, together with the schools, forms a pretty object at the head of the glen.

An old tenement, called **Culver House,** is held by tenure of service of "Grand Serjeantry" at the King's coronation—a claim acknowledged by the Court of Claims in the time of William IV. Bishopston formerly belonged to the Bishops of Llandaff. The Rev. E. Davies, the eminent antiquary and author of the 'Mythology of the Druids' and other works, was long rector of this parish.

2 m. inland is the primitive **Gower Inn,** built by the late Mr. Penrice, of Kilvrough, for the accommodation of tourists, for whom no other exists in the peninsula, save what a farm-house may afford. It is charmingly placed at the junction of two or three glens, well wooded and each with its accompanying streamlet. The best way to reach it from the coast is to strike off at Pwlddu Bay by the path up the dingle. The landlord of the Gower Inn is, or was till recently, no contemptible florist. It is a lovely walk of two miles to **Ilston Ch.** (remarkable for its saddleback roof), and also to the Green Combe. Near the Inn are Landgrove Farm and the **Court House,** where traces of Flemish (?) architecture are still visible.

The wooded demesne opposite is **Kilvrough** (T. Penrice, Esq.).

The geologist should not omit to visit the Bone Cave of the **Bacon Hole,** on the coast, about 1 m. from the Gower Inn, where a guide should be procured. It is almost in a straight line with Pennard ch. tower, in the ch.-yd. adjoining which is a curious epitaph:

"Whom God consorts with sacred right and love,
Death cannot separate *marrow** from the dove."

This cave was systematically blasted

* Marrow here = mate or companion.

to obtain the bones which were found in successive layers: 1st, alluvial earth, containing recent shells and bones of ox, red deer, roebuck, and fox; 2nd, bear, ox, and deer; 3rd, mammoth, rhinoceros, hyæna, wolf, bear, ox, and deer; 4th, mammoth, badger, and polecat. Below this, and upon the limestone floor, were shells of Clausilia nigricans, Littorina littoralis, bones of birds, and arvicola. The mammoth bones are deposited in the Swansea Museum, and are remarkable for their size, one tusk being 2 ft. round and 5 ft. 5 in. long. All these different layers were separated by deposits of stalagmite, the only traces of man being some pieces of British pottery.

Other caves are to be found along the cliffs, such as the Mitchin Hole, Bosco's Cave, &c., all of them more or less ossiferous.

Pennard Castle is commandingly placed, overlooking a "pill," doubtless at one time occupied by the sea. Little remains but a bold gateway with rude flanking towers of Edwardian times; but the whole neighbourhood has been inundated by sand, which, tradition asserts, was blown over in one night, but which has evidently been the work of four or five centuries. The botanist will find *Draba aizoides* growing on the walls of this castle about the month of August. Samphire and "the Ulva porphyra," whence laverbread is made, are gathered on the rocks hereabout, and sold in Swansea market.

Traces of the foundations of what must have been a considerable town may be made out amongst the sandhills. A neighbouring hamlet is still called the *South Gate*, and an adjoining farm the *North Town*.

On Penmaen Burrows is the very small old church of **Penmaen**, buried like Old Kenfig and Newton Nottage by the sand at some distant period, and exhumed in 1861.

Soon after passing the modern Penmaen Church, **Oxwich** Bay, the finest in Gower, opens out. The ruins of **Penrice** Castle, and the modern mansion of C. R. M. Talbot, Esq., M.P., Lord Lieutenant of the county, stand embowered in wood at the W. angle of the bay.

This old ruin "is inferior only to Caerphilly, Cardiff and Coyty, in the area contained within its walls and is second to none in its strong, commanding and picturesque position." (*G. T. Clark*). The round tower is probably the oldest part of the building, and the recent excavation of some fragments of Norm. work support the theory that it was erected at the end of that period, though round towers of that early date are very rare. In the reign of Hen. V. the Castle came by an heiress of the Penrices to the Mansels from whom the present owner is descended, passed to the Mansels, whose heiress conveyed it by marriage, in 1750, to the ancestor of the present owner.

Penrice Church should be visited for the beauty of its situation. There is a Norm. wall and arch, masked with plaster, between the nave and the chancel, a S. porch of early Dec. and a S. door of early Eng. date.

Oxwich Church and Castle stand on the promontory of the same name, which bounds the bay on the W. Inside the former is an altar-tomb to Sir Rice Mansell, a member of the family which founded the castle, and removed to Margam in the reign of Henry VIII. The latter is more of a military residence than a castle, and is in part "a large Perp. mansion, carried along at the complete elevation of a tower, the walls of which are dotted rather irregularly with a number of square-headed windows of two lights, and single-light windows with depressed heads." A great part of Oxwich

Castle is converted into a farm-house, with domestic work in it of dubious antiquity. Tradition asserts that an affray took place here, respecting a wreck, between Sir George Herbert and Sir Rice Mansel, in which Lady Anne Mansel was killed by a stone.

A walk of 2 m. will bring the traveller to **Port Eynon,** a fishing-village, formerly renowned for smugglers. The cliffs become bold and precipitous, and the walk from hence to the Worm's Head, 5 m., is as fine as anything in South Wales. At **Paviland** are two bone-caves, described by Dr. Buckland in his work 'Diluviæ Reliquianæ,' and approached by non-pedestrians from a farm a little before reaching Paviland, between the road and the coast. In them were found recent shells and bones of elephant, rhinoceros, bear, fox, hyæna, wolf, horse, deer, ox, rats, and birds, besides the skeleton of a female (probably coeval with a British camp on the summit), fragments of ivory, ornaments, and coins. These caves are very difficult of access from the cliffs, but the necessary path can be found by inquiring at a farmhouse near.

Worm's Head, 20 m. from Swansea, is the most westerly point of the peninsula, consisting of two rocky headlands running out for a mile, and separated from the mainland and each other by causeways, which at low water are left bare by the tide. The traveller should endeavour to time his visit so as to be enabled to walk across, which can be done during a space of 5 h. The rock scenery is fine and bold, the outer point being 200 ft. above the sea. A curious noise is emitted from the **Blow-hole,** caused by the hollowing out of the rock beneath, into which the waves rush, driving the air before them till it escapes by the external orifice. In stormy weather the Worm's Head is a dangerous headland, and many a fine ship has been lost on this coast. The 'City of Bristol' steamer was wrecked in Rhosilly Bay in 1840. The best mode of seeing the Worm's Head to advantage is to put up with the rough and ready accommodation at Pitton farmhouse, or the 'Ship' at Rhosilly, and so get a whole day for it.

In the early part of the 17th centy. a homeward-bound galleon went ashore in Rhosilly Bay. Most of the crew perished, and the survivors sold the wreck for a small sum to a person named Thomas, who resided at Pittor. This person, being unaware of the value of his purchase, allows the sands to drift over it and almost cover it from view. One of the Mansel family, however, having discovered the nature of the cargo, forcibly broke into the wreck and carried off much spoil, though the illgotten treasure did little good, for he is said to have died miserably abroad. After this the galleon became entirely engulfed in the sand, and nothing more was recovered until about 75 years ago, when, after a great storm, a number of doubloons and dollars, bearing date 1631, were found strewn about the sands. In 1833 about 120 ft. of the ship was exposed, and a systematic attempt was made to recover the treasure. About 300 people were at work on this 'Eldorado,' and were well repaid for their exertions. In 1834 she was again visible for a short time, and a large number of Spanish dollars found.

The quaint, weather-beaten little village of **Rhosilly** is placed at the head of the bay, and at the foot of the downs. A comfortable lodging can be obtained at the house of a farmer at Pitton.

3 m. from Rhosilly is **Llangenydd Church,** the largest in Gower, having a side tower and a blocked Romanesque arch on its eastern

face ; its importance is referable to its marking the site of an old priory and college, that of St. Cenydd, from whom its name is derived ; and 2 m. beyond is **Llanmadoc,** 1½ m. from which, on the coast, is another bone-cave known as Spritsail Tor. Near Llanmadoc is **Cheriton,** which has a Norm. church of some interest.

Cheriton ch. tower stands between nave and chancel, and has neither aisles nor transepts. On Llanmadoc Down above the village is a large British camp, seemingly adopted later by the Romans. There is a large British camp upon the rock above the Paviland caves, and 1 m. from Rhosilly, on the downs, is another.

On the return to Gower Inn the tourist should visit **Harding Down** and the well-preserved remains of the camp on its summit ; and from thence should proceed to Reynoldstone, near which is **Stouthall** where is one of the largest ossiferous caves in the kingdom. From hence the ridge of **Cefn Bryn,** an elevation of old red sandstone, runs like a backbone through the peninsula, flanked on either side by the mountain limestone. Numerous cairns and Druidical circles are to be found on it, particularly the famous cromlech of **Arthur's Stone,** mentioned in the Welsh Triads as "the big stone of Sketty," and one of the wonders of Wales. It consists of an enormous mass of millstone-grit, 14 ft. long, 7 ft. deep, 6 ft. 6 in. at greatest breadth, and weighs 25 tons, apparently resting on nine upright supporters, but resting really on four, the whole rather sunk in a basin nearly full of rough stones. These, according to tradition, are fragments which Arthur struck off in his detestation of idolatry. A huge flat piece, about 30 ft. in circumference and about 3 feet thick, broken off from the upper stone, and weighing some 8 or 10 tons, lies near it. Cairns and tumuli all around mark this as only a portion of a greater work. It is situated on the N. slope of Cefn Bryn, and the tourist should keep along the brow of the hill until the turnpike from Swansea to Reynoldstone intersects the turf road, then turn to the rt. for a few hundred yards, and again to the l. over the shoulder.

2 m. to the **N.** is **Webley** Castle, a large structure in fair preservation, placed on the bank of the estuary of the Burry river, and a little to the W. of it are the scanty remains of **Llandymor** or Bovehill Castle, which belonged to Sir Hugh Johnys, whose monument is in Swansea church. Here also is a strong intrenchment, called **Manselfold,** probably an outwork to Webley. The *view* from the summit of Cefn Bryn is one of the finest in the county, embracing the whole of Gower, with the Bristol Channel and Devonshire coast, on the S. ; Tenby, the Carmarthenshire hills and coast, the town of Llanelly, the Swansea valley, and the Brecon Beacons to the W. and N. The distance from Penmaen at the foot of the hill, to Swansea across Fairwood Common, is 7 m. There is an interesting Roman-British camp at **Cil Ivor** Hill, near Llanrhidian, said to have been raised by Ivor Cadivor, a chieftain of Morganwg, 1110.]

78 m. **Gower Road** Stat. There is also a station here for the *Central Wales* Rly. (L. and N.W.), from whence the traveller can proceed to Llandeilo, Llandovery, and Craven Arms, en route for Manchester and the North. A short branch also is given off on l. to **Penclawdd**, a little fishing-village on the coast, where coal is shipped from the neighbouring collieries.

1½ m. rt. **Penllergaer**, the beautiful seat of J. Dillwyn Llewellyn, Esq.

80 m. **Lloughor**, commanding the ferry of the Lloughor (Llwchwr) river, once an important place, the ancient Leucarum, and 5th stat. on the Via Julia, but now a miserable little village. A ruined square tower is all that remains of the castle, built probably by the Norman Henry de Beaumont on a site which the Romans had occupied; and the borough and sanctuary have disappeared like the greatness of Kenfig. The railway, as well as the turnpike road, crosses the estuary of the Burry river by a bridge more than ¼ m. long. On the other side the river are the Spytty copper works (a corruption of Hospitium).

The line now runs through a flat and marshy country to the busy port and manufacturing town of ♁ **Llanelly** (83 m., Rte. 21), where a branch railway in connection with the Central Wales system passes off to Llandeilo Vawr and Llandovery. It has risen into considerable commercial importance from the mineral treasures in its vicinity, and its ready access to the sea, which renders it an outlet for a large part of the S. Wales coal-field. Nearly the whole town depends for its prosperity upon the tin-works, copper-works and collieries. There are also chemical, and lead and pottery works. Large docks have been formed in connection with the G.W. Railway, whence great quantities of anthracite coal are exported. The chimney of the copper-works is 320 ft. high, and is a conspicuous object for miles around. The **Church** is a fine old building in the centre of the town, with an embattled tower, the base of which is much broader than the top. There are also five or six churches in the borough and district all erected in the last few years. A new Congregational chapel has a spire 100 ft. high. On the hilly ground to the N. is **Westfa**.

The railway from hence is carried over a long embankment, close to the water's edge, passing on the rt. **Stradey** (C. W. Mansel Lewis, Esq.).

87 m. **Pembrey**, a small port where a considerable amount of coal is shipped, brought from the Gwendraeth valley by rail. The copper works belong to Messrs. Elliott's Co. The village is placed at the foot of **Mynydd Pembre**, remarkable for its fine views over the sweep of Caermarthen Bay, the peninsular of Gower, and the Bay of Swansea, with the distant hills of Somerset and Devonshire beyond.

92 m. ♁ **Kidwelly** Stat. This town, which formerly enjoyed some prosperity, but is now almost decayed, owing to the port having become sanded up, stands on the Gwendraeth Fach, ¾ m. rt. of the stat. It contains a number of old houses, which appear to date as early as the 1st and 3rd Edw.; but its chief lion is the **Castle**, which, though a ruin, is tolerably perfect, and of considerable extent, on the rt. bank of the river, which separates it from the town, and from 80 to 100 ft. above it. In plan it is, like Caerphilly, of the Edwardian or concentric type, forming nearly a semicircle of which the main ditch is the curve and the river the chord. The *Inner Ward* has 4 round towers, about 44 ft. high, and 4 curtain walls with rampart-walk and parapet enclosing a quadrangle of about 80 yds. square. The principal entrance to the inner ward was through the S. curtain. The chapel tower is a curious structure built into the E. curtain, and containing a ground floor and two upper floors, the higher of which was the chapel, and is on a level with the ramparts. The Hall, 60 ft. by 25, and the retiring room, occupied the whole E. side of the quadrangle. The kitchen was in the S.W. corner opposite the hall. The

Outer Ward consists of a great and lesser gatehouse, curtain walls, several towers and offices. The great gatehouse is a massive building 80 ft. broad, 50 deep, and 62 high. There are dungeons to the rt. and l. of the entrance, and on the 1st floor a state room 40 ft. by 17. The outworks are divided into N. and S. platforms by a branch of the main ditch. The main part of the building is probably of the date of Hen. III. or Edw. I. The great gatehouse is early Perp., probably 1380–1400. [See G. T. Clark, Milit. Arch.] The whole presents many attractions both to the artist and antiquary, who will both find their account in a day spent here.

The castle is said to have been founded by William de Londres, one of the knights who assisted Fitzhamon in the conquest of Glamorgan, and the founder of the castle of Ogmore in that county. In 1135, while Gruffydd ap Rhys was in N. Wales, Gwenllian his wife led an army into Kidwelly. She fought a pitched battle with Maurice de Londres, was defeated, and put to death. Her eldest son also perished in the battle, and her second son was taken prisoner. The castle was for a long time a possession of the Duchy of Lancaster, but is now the property of the Earl of Cawdor.

The **Church** is a handsome building, though previous to its restoration it grievously suffered from mutilation and neglect. It possesses a tower and lofty spire, nave of an unusually large span, viz. 33 ft. in the clear, transepts and chancel with a wood roof, forming altogether a simple and uniform cross, and carved piscina. It is of Dec. date. In the interior are some mutilated effigies, and in a niche over the doorway is an original statue of the Virgin and Child.

96 m. **Ferryside** Stat., celebrated for its extensive cockle-fishery, and, as a watering-place, much frequented by the good folk of Caermarthen and neighbouring towns. It overlooks a large expanse of sand at the mouth of the Towy, and stands opposite to the headland and ruined castle of **Llanstephan,** which keeps guard from on high over the little village snugly embosomed in the trees by the water's edge. Across the river there is a ferry. The view of the sands and Caermarthen Bay from the hill at sunset is one not to be forgotten. The walls of Llanstephan Castle are of considerable extent, and, at a distance, have an imposing appearance, though they are a mere shell. It is not very clearly established who was the founder of this castle, some attributing it to Uchtryd, Lord of Merioneth in 1138; but we find it in 1138 in the possession of the Normans and Flemings, from whom it was retaken in 1143 by Meredydd and Cadell, the sons of Gruffydd ap Rhys, Prince of South Wales, who held it for many years, despite the desperate and frequent efforts made by the strangers to regain it. Afterwards it had many vicissitudes, and in 1257 was besieged and taken by Llewelyn ap Iorwerth from the English, who were then in possession of it.

In the woods beneath stands the **Plas,** the seat of Sir Jas. Hamilton, Bart.

[3 m. beyond Llanstephan, and 3 m. to the S. of St. Clears, is the decayed port and town of **Llaugharne,** on the rt. bank of the mouth of the Tâf, across which is a ferry. Here is a Norm. castle (W. Norton, Esq.), besieged for three weeks by Cromwell, which is inhabited and not shown to strangers. It is said to have been built originally in the 11th centy., and at first called Abercorran Castle, from the Coran river which, near it, empties itself into the sea. In the ch. is a set of

priest's robes given by Sir Guido de Brian, who bequeathed lands to the parish, and rebuilt the castle, which had been destroyed by Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, in 1215. The ch. and ch.-yd. here are interesting and well kept. There are some venerable yew-trees in the latter. From hence to Tenby it is a beautiful walk of about 15 m. through Marros and **Amroth,** where many rare kinds of shells may be found. The geologist will find in the limestone rock at **Coygan,** 1½ m. on the coast, a bone-cave which has yielded Hyæna, Rhinoceros, Elephant, Horse, Deer, &c. Llaugharne is much sought after for a residence owing to its healthiness, its quiet, and the great cheapness of living.

About 1 m. from the town is an ancient building, supposed to be monastic, called **Roche's Castle.**].

From Ferryside the railway keeps close to the Towy, in the course of which beautiful peeps are obtained of the fertile and well-wooded country on both sides.

On rt. is **Iscoed.** It was the seat of Sir T. Picton, from whence he went to join the campaign of 1815. On the rt. is also **Penbryn,** the seat of Mr. Lewis Morris, the distinguished poet, beautifully situated amidst extensive woods.

Passing through a short cutting in the old red sandstone, the traveller arrives. at 102 m.,

Caermarthen Junct., whence radiate so many rlys. that Caermarthen is now placed in immediate connection with all parts of the country.

ȸ **Caermarthen,** the Maridunum of Ptolemy, stands high on the rt. bank of the Towy, affording lovely views of the vale.

"To Maridunum, that is now by change
Of name Cayr Marrddin call'd they took their way."—*Spenser.*

It is traditionally said to have been the birthplace of the prophet Merlin (whence, according to some, the origin of the name), and was long considered the chief seat of Government by the Welsh princes, before they removed to Dynevor. When the sovereign power was transferred to England, the Exchequer and Mint were retained here, until the separate jurisdiction was abolished.

It is the county town, and possesses considerable historical interest. In the **Town-hall** are portraits of Sir T. Picton, by *Shee;* of Sir W. Nott, and Mr. Jones, of Ystrad, M.P., by *Brigstocke.*

The parish **Church,** St. Peter's, which has been restored, contains a monument of Gen. Nott; one to Bishop Farrar, who was burnt in the market-place in the reign of Mary; and a mutilated but remarkably fine altar-tomb to Sir Rhys ap Thomas, K.G. (died 1527), who commanded the Welsh under Henry at Bosworth, and his wife, Eva, daughter of Henry ap Gwilym of Court Henry. There is another to Anne Lady Vaughan, with a curious inscription. The effigy of Sir Rhys is in armour and Garter robes.

At the W. end of the town stands the **Obelisk** to the memory of the gallant Picton, replacing a monument by *Nash,* which was pulled down in 1846.

There is also a statue of Nott, the hero of Ghuznee, and the son of a Caermarthen innkeeper, in Nott-square, on the spot where the Market-cross formerly stood; and a rather poor monument, in Lammas Street, in memory of the officers and men of the 23rd Welsh Fusiliers who fell in the Crimea. The banners of the same regiment hang up in the chancel of St. Peter's Church. To the E. of the town is the **Parade;** and beyond it, the Pond-side, a lovely walk, looking up the vale of Towy towards Merlin's

Hill and Abergwili; and near it is a fragment of the priory. The scanty remains of the castle are incorporated with the county gaol. It was taken by Owain Glyndwr; it was garrisoned for Charles in the civil wars, but had to yield to the Parliamentarian forces under General Laugharne, and was finally dismantled by Cromwell.

In the suburbs are barracks for 1500 soldiers, and ½ m. on the W. of the town is the **Training School** for South Wales, a very handsome building, erected by the Welsh Education Committee in 1847 at a cost of 8000*l*. On the l. bank of the river is

Llangunnor Church, a primitive little building, with some fine old yew-trees, and a superb view of the Towy. Sir R. Steele occasionally resided at Ty-gwyn, now a farmhouse, in this parish, which he had acquired by marriage with one of the Scurlock family, in whose vault at St. Peter's Church, Caermarthen, he was buried. At the house since converted into the Ivy Bush Hotel, he composed his 'Constant Lover' and many other dramatic pieces, and he died in King-street. A plain mural tablet in Llangunnor church (erected by a Pembrokeshire squire) records in somewhat stilted and exaggerated language Steele's connection with that parish.

The **Quay** extends for some distance to the rt. of the bridge; but the number of vessels belonging to the port is not large, as the navigation of the river is difficult and devious.

110 m. **St. Clears,** a little port on the Tâf, at its confluence with the Gynin. The site of the Norman castle is marked by a tumulus. It is mentioned by Giraldus Cambrensis in his 'Itinerary,' and was captured by Llewelyn ap Iorwerth in 1214.

About 2 m. distance, upon the opposite side of the estuary at **Llanfihangel Abercowyn,** are 3 remarkable tombs, well worthy of inspection. They are traditionally said to have been those of 3 holy palmers who wandered thither in great distress, and being fearful of dying of want, slew each other, the last survivor's strength not being equal to the task of pulling the stone over him, and it remains in the oblique position in which he left it. The peasantry believe that as long as these stones are kept from moss and weeds, no venomous creature can exist on the peninsula.

3½ m. on l. of St. Clears is Llaugharne.

1½ m. l. **Llandowror.**

116 m. Whitland Junct., where the Caermarthen and Tenby line branches off to Tenby and Pembroke, in connection with the Central Wales system (Rte. 24). Another rly. along the Tâf to Cardigan was completed in 1886. 2 m. rt. is **Whitland Abbey,** the seat of the Hon. W. Yelverton, who has erected a modern house on the site of Alba Lauda, or Ty Gwyn ar Tâf, the White House on the Tâf. This monastic house, said to have been founded about the 5th centy. by Paulinus, was afterwards occupied by the Cistercians, a colony of whom went hence, at the invitation of Cadwallon ap Madoc, to build and found Abbey Cwmhir in Radnorshire. Wharton ascribes its origin to Bernard, Bishop of St. David's, 1115–1147. But little remains of the ancient building, save some portions of clustered pillars. The situation on the Tâf is extremely pretty.

It was at this place that Howell dda, or Howell the Good, convened

that assembly of nobles and ecclesiastics (1282) of his principality, which "abrogated and consolidated" the existing laws into a code still known as Howell the Good's Code.

Whitland was a favourite residence of the Cambrian legislator, and here he erected that house of white wattles, of which such frequent mention is made by the old chroniclers.

122 m. **Narberth Road** Stat., distant from Narberth 3½ m. (Rte. 24). The Preseley Hills form a fine background to the landscape on the rt. The tall tower of Templeton ch. stands out in the distance to the left. (See Rte. 24.)

129 m. **Clarbeston Road** Stat. From hence the line is carried through a more picturesque part of the country, as it follows the circuitous windings of the Cartlett brook to

134 m. ♁ **Haverfordwest** (Rte. 25), finely placed on a hill overlooking the waters of the western Cleddau, navigable as high as the bridge for small craft. It is a clean, well-built town, and presents an appearance of liveliness, partly owing to its excellent markets, and pleasant public walks, and partly to the number of persons who have made it their residence from motives of retirement and economy. The name of Haverford (fiord) bears testimony to the frequent incursions, and even settlements, of the Danes along this coast. Those of Stackpole, Gateholm, Stockholm, Skomer, Musselwick, Ramsey, Strumble, Swansea, on the same coast, are clearly of the same origin. Little remains of the castle except the keep, built into the solid rock, and a strong outer wall of connecting towers, which is occupied by the county gaol; it had, however, its place in history from the days of its founder, Gilbert de Clare, first Earl of Pembroke, until it was demolished in 1648 by order of the Parliament, the Mayor and Corporation only demurring to the tax of providing the gunpowder, a tax for which was accordingly levied on the whole county. It was visited by Giraldus and Archbishop Baldwin, and besieged by Owain Glyndwr. **St. Mary's Church** is one of the finest in S. Wales, and should not be forgotten by the visitor. It possesses a clerestory, an unusual feature in Welsh churches. The nave is remarkable for the beauty of its roof-carving, and is separated from the side aisle by pointed arches resting upon clustered pillars, with grotesque sculptured capitals. A lofty arch separates the nave from the chancel, which has a very finely-traced E. window. Indeed, each window deserves careful notice. The end of an old chancel-stall represents St. Michael victorious over the dragons, and there is in the W. end of the ch., removed from the chancel, a recumbent effigy of a pilgrim to the shrine of St. Jude, with satchel and scallops.

St. Martin's Church appears to have been an appendage to the castle, and is an old building, with a long nave and chancel, and a S. aisle. There is also a ch. of St. Thomas within the precincts of the town. Outside the town, on the river's bank near the rly. bridge, is the ruin of a priory of Black Canons of the Order of St. Augustin, covering a large area. The ch. was cruciform, with a central tower, supported by 4 handsome pointed arches. Haverfordwest has all the steepness and narrowness of a typical Welsh town. In the neighbourhood are Glanafon (Xavier Peel, Esq.); Withybush (W. Owen, Esq.); and Cottesmoor (E. T. Massey, Esq.).

5 m. to E. is **Picton Castle** (the seat of Rev. J. H. A. Phillips),

strikingly placed, a little above the confluence of the 2 Cleddaus, which are here of considerable breadth. This is one of the very few Norman castles remaining in the kingdom which "have never been forfeited, never deserted, never burnt," and has been inhabited by a line of successive proprietors since the time of William Rufus. Built by William de Picton, a comrade of Arnulph de Montgomery, it passed by marriage from his descendants to the Wogans, and in like manner from the Wogans to the Donnes. Jane Donne, heiress of Sir Richard Donne, carried it as dower to Sir Thomas Philips of Cilsant in the reign of Richard III., with whose posterity, direct or indirect, it has since remained. It stood a sharp siege during the Civil Wars, when Sir Richard Phillips, the then owner, garrisoned it for the king. Some, architecturally speaking, barbarous additions and alterations have been made at the western end, but, with this exception, the structure is substantially the same as that which William de Picton founded 7 centuries ago. At the further end of the very beautiful walk leading to Slebech, shaded by magnificent oaks and overhanging the river, is an encampment called the **Castle Lake.**

Close to Picton is the fine demesne of **Slebech** (Baron de Rutzen), an ancient commandery of the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem (commemorated by the bard, Lewis Glyn Cothi, in the Wars of the Roses), wherein is still preserved a sword used at the installation of the Knights of St. John.

Upon the summit of the hill, close to the Haverfordwest road, is the E. Eng. (new) ch. of Slebech, ambitious but singularly out of place.

In front, and stretching for many miles, is the ancient forest of **Canaston,** which, although the trees are of small size, gives the visitor more thoroughly the idea of an ancient forest than any other in the county. At **Newhouse** are the ruins of a castalet, which was probably erected by the Canaston family upon their first settlement in Wales. Upon the western verge of the forest, and not far from Newhouse, is a strong intrenchment, worthy of a visit.

Some traces of Roman mining operations are visible in some parts of the subordinate wood of **Minivear,** and some ingenious persons have contended that they sought here for gold upon the supposition that Minivear is a corruption of "Mwyn Awr," or the gold ore.

In the county of Pembroke, as far N. as Haverfordwest, the Welsh language is not spoken; its inhabitants being supposed to be the descendants of a colony of Flemings, who, driven from their own country by a fearful inundation caused by a rupture of the sea-dykes (1105), were settled here by Hen. I., along with the Norman conquerors of the country. Haverfordwest was probably the central position of this colony for trade and defence of their territory. On the accession of Hen. II., the settlement was reinforced by the Flemish mercenaries who had served under Stephen, and were banished hither by the new king. Engaged in constant feuds and open warfare with their Welsh neighbours, they retained their own manners and customs as well as language for ages, and it is remarkable that the line which divides the English and Welsh languages generally was, until lately, distinct and defined—as distinct and defined as 650 years ago. The cottages of the peasants are frequently built of a compound of straw and clay, called "clom," similar to the Devonshire "col," and display peculiarities of structure, more especially in the form of the chimneys, supposed to be derived from their Flemish ancestors.

[At 129 m., Johnston Junct., a short branch is given off to ⚷ **Milford.** The town of Milford is splendidly situated on the rt. side of the Haven, about 6 m. from its mouth, between two small creeks opposite an anchorage called the Man-of-War Road. It was entirely the creation, in 1790, of Hon. C. F. Greville, who inherited the property from his uncle, Sir W. Hamilton, the British Envoy at the Court of Naples, and consists of 3 parallel streets ranged along the hillside, commanding fine views of the harbour. It has been now for years a dull desolate place, extinguished by the removal of the Royal Dockyard in 1811, followed by that of the Irish Post-office and packet establishment, by which trade was reduced to stagnation, and many houses shut up. A brighter future, however, is dawning upon it: the unequalled capabilities of the Haven are again being recognised. A well-appointed service of Irish steamers has been organised from the terminus of the S. Wales Railway, and a great chain of railway communication completed to Manchester and the northern manufacturing districts. As a harbour, Milford Haven has not its equal in the whole world; for it is capable of anchoring in safety the entire fleet of England. There is a handsome ch. erected at the E. of the town by Mr. Greville, on a spot which was designed to be the centre. It contains a vase of red Egyptian porphyry, brought to this country by Dr. Pococke, and inscribed to the memory of Nelson; it was intended to serve as a font, but was pronounced too heathenish. There is also the twisted vane of the mainmast of the French admiral's ship 'L'Orient,' blown up at the battle of the Nile. Sir William Hamilton is buried here.

The estuary of **Milford Haven** stretches for 10 m. inland, varying in breadth from 1 to 2 m., having 5 bays, 10 creeks, and 13 roadsteads, affording anchorage to the largest ships. The tide, passing up through its ramifications into the very heart of the county, washes the towns of Pembroke and Haverfordwest, situated at the extremity of two of its forks. It is well sheltered from storms by undulating hills around, which being destitute of trees, and only scantily clad with vegetation, present a desolate rather than a picturesque aspect. A vessel may safely run in without anchor or cable, as there are from 15 to 19 fathoms of water in most parts. Its importance was appreciated at an early period, and is attested by historical events which have occurred here. From Milford Haven the fleet of Hen. II. set out to conquer Ireland, and here the French invading army, 12,000 strong, sent over to co-operate with Owain Glyndwr against Hen. IV., effected their landing. Here Henry, the Earl of Richmond, afterwards Hen. VII., disembarked with a scanty retinue of followers from Brittany; but being received with open arms by Sir Rhys ap Thomas, and a chosen body of Welsh troops under his command, set forth to win a crown at Bosworth. **Dale Castle** (J. A. P. Lloyd Philipps, Esq.), near the creek where Richmond landed; **St. Botolphs, Butter Hill** (G. Roche, Esq.); **Castle Hill,** the old seat of the Grevilles, and other pleasant residences, dot the coast-line between Milford Haven and St. Bride's Bay.

Fortifications have been added by the Government at Scoveston, Popton Pt., South Hook Pt., West Blockhouse Pt., Dale Pt., Stack Rock, and Thorn Island.]

144 m. is ⚷ **New Milford,** the terminus of the South Wales Rly., situated directly opposite Pater and Hobbs Point. The railway runs down to the water's edge, where bag-

gage and goods are transferred to the Irish steamers. The distance from London is 285 m. Steamers convey the traveller to Hobbs Point, formerly the point of departure for the Irish mails, to Pembroke Dock, immediately opposite (Rte. 24).

ROUTE 3.

FROM HEREFORD TO CHEPSTOW, BY ROSS AND MONMOUTH.

The River Wye.

Hereford (Rte. 4) is quitted by the Great Western Rly., which connects it with Gloucester. Until 1869 this portion of the rly. was on the broad-gauge system, and it is worthy of notice that the conversion to the narrow-gauge between Hereford and Gloucester was performed in four days, a distance of 30 m. The line runs in loving fellowship with the Wye as far as Ross, where the tourist has the choice of continuing his journey either by land or water. Soon after leaving the **Barrs Court** Stat., it crosses the Wye at Eign, and passes, 2 m. on l., **Rotherwas,** the seat of C. T. Bodenham, Esq., an old-fashioned red-brick house, built about the time of James I., who is said to have stopped here for a night and enjoyed the hospitality of Sir Roger Bodenham. The Bodenham family, which has been located here since the marriage, in the reign of Edward III., of Thomas Bodenham with Isabella, daughter of Walter de la Barr, suffered severely for their loyalty in the civil wars. Old Ray in his proverbs (1678) cites this one as belonging to Herefordshire, "Every one cannot dwell at Rotheras,"—"a delicate seat," he explains, "of the Bodnams in Herefordshire." On the rt., and, indeed, partly tunnelled under by the Rly., is **Dinedor Hill,** from whence a lovely view is obtained of the surrounding country, causing it to be a favourite summer's walk with the townsfolk of Hereford. On the summit is a Roman camp, supposed to be that of Ostorius Scapula, in token of which it is still called Oyster Hill by the vulgar. Soon after passing Rotherwas, a fine range of hills backs up the landscape on the l., gradually approaching the river towards the S. The villages of **Mordiford** and **Fownhope** lie at the base of these hills, which are classic ground to the geologist and were the scene of a considerable portion of Sir Roderick Murchison's labours.

The E. Eng. ch. of **Fownhope,** with Norm. details, restored 1853, and having a central Norman tower, with modern wooden spire, 50 ft. high, contains memorials of a branch of the Lechmeres, who have been located at the **Court,** a timber mansion of the 16th cent., since the reign of Elizabeth.

2 m. N. is **Sufton Court** (R. Hereford, Esq.), built of Bath stone, 1790, from designs by *Smirke;* the grounds were laid out by *Repton.* Below it is Old Sufton, a curious timber house of the 15th centy., now occupied as a farmhouse. The estate has been enjoyed by the ancestors of the present owner since 1230, and held by the homage of presenting the king with a pair of gilt spurs when he passed across the river Lugg, which unites with the Wye below Mordiford, a parish deriving its name, as well as its local myth of a poisonous dragon which

was depicted on the exterior of the ch., from the stagnant *marsh* formed by the junction of the Lugg and Wye. The visitor can cross the Wye by a bridge of 3 arches to

4 m. **Holme Lacy** Stat.

On rt. is **Holme Lacy House** (Sir Henry Scudamore Stanhope, Bart.), one of the finest seats in the county. The building has 3 fronts with projecting wings, the N. and E. fronts being 200 ft. in length, while the S. front is 150. In the interior are some splendid apartments, especially the saloon, which is decorated with beautiful wood-carvings by *Grinling Gibbons*. There are also some family portraits, paintings by *Holbein*, *Vandyck*, and *Sir Peter Lely*, and a head of Lord Strafford, copied in crayons from *Vandyck* by Pope. The gardens are extensive, and present a singularly perfect specimen of the topiary art, with their trimmed yew-tree hedges, and alleys answering alleys; whilst the beds preserve the best features of the old English flower-garden. In the Park adjoining, as well as in the pleasure-grounds, are many noble trees; indeed, the oaks in Price's Walk are among the finest in the country. The "Monarch Oak" girths 21 ft. 10 in. at 5 ft. from the ground; the "Trysting Oak," 27 ft. 5 in. at 3 ft. from the ground; and there is at Holme Lacy a Wellingtonia, planted in Nov. 1855, which at 16 years old was 27 ft. high, and at 5 ft. from the ground was 3 ft. 6 in. in girth. The gardens are shown to the public on Tuesdays from 10 A.M. till 1 P.M., during July, August, and September. The estate came into the possession of the Scudamore family in the reign of Edward III., by the marriage of Lady Clara Lacy with Thomas Scudamore. The greater portion of the house was rebuilt by the 2nd Viscount Scudamore, after the style of a French château, and the approach to it from the S.W. led into a spacious quadrangle occupied by the stables and offices. Great alterations, not it would seem for the better, were made by the late baronet on succeeding to the title. Of this family, John Scudamore was an esquire of the body to Henry VIII.; Sir James, knighted for his bravery at the siege of Calais, is noticed by Fuller as "a man famous and fortunate in his time;" and the "Sir Scudamore" of Spenser's 'Faëry Queen,' John, 1st Viscount Scudamore, Ambassador to France 1634, suffered severely for his loyalty during the Civil Wars. To him the county is indebted for the improvement of its orchards and its breed of cattle.

The **Church,** in the Norm. style, is situated near the river, and contains some family monuments, including one of the Duchess of Norfolk, who died in 1820. Near the parsonage is a remarkable pear-tree, covering a large space, and yielding at periods 14 hogsheads of perry.

The line now runs under the **Ballingham** hill, a heavy work of 1200 yds.

3 m. l. is **Caplar Hill,** wooded to the water's edge. On its summit is a double-intrenched Roman camp, in a very perfect condition. A considerable portion of the stone for building the Cathedral of Hereford was quarried here. In April, 1773, a remarkable landslip occurred here of 5 acres of land, which not only removed stones of considerable weight, but carried trees in an upright and undisturbed position.

The Wye is again crossed and a tunnel of 530 yards entered, at the other end of which is

8 m. **Fawley** Stat., in a deep red sandstone cutting The **Court**, now a farmhouse, is a good specimen of an Elizabethan mansion, with an embattled parapet, now the pro-

perty of Col. Money Kyrle. Sir John Kyrle resided in it temp. Charles I. Fawley is a chapelry of Fownhope.

Aramstone (Wyndham Smith, Esq.), on rt., was a seat of the Woodhouse family, erected early in the last centy.

Cross the Wye for the third time. On rt.,

¾ 3 m., is **Harewood**, late the seat of Chandos Wren Hoskyns, Esq. In his poem of 'Elfrida,' Mason assigns this locality for the forest which once occupied this district and contained the castle of Earl Ethelwold, who was assassinated in 968 by King Edgar. Harewood, which became the property of the Hoskyns family by purchase in 1654, had a chapel attached to it, which is mentioned by Silas Taylor. This has given place to a beautiful E. Eng. ch. erected in 1864. In the grounds are a fine oak, a Spanish chestnut of fine dimensions, and some beeches 100 ft. high.

Near it is **Llanfrawther**, a retired spot in which a noted British seminary flourished under Dubritius.

On the high ground to the l. is **Perrystone**, a modern mansion erected by the late George Clive, Esq., on the site of the old house purchased by him from Colonel H. Morgan Clifford. Perrystone is in the parish of Foy.

Crossing the Wye for the fourth time, and passing rt. **Bridstow** E. Eng. Church, restored 1861; *Moraston*, and **Dadnor** (A. Armitage, Esq.), the rly. reaches

12 m. ♆ **Ross** Stat. Ross is a market town of 6000 Inhab., with very steep streets, pleasantly situated on an eminence rising from the l. bank of the river. "Through the midst of the valley runs the Wye, which seems in no way to quit the country; but, like a hare which is unwilling to leave her habitation, makes a hundred turns and doubles."

It is the point from which travellers start to explore the beauties of the river, for which pleasure boats are in readiness. Gray and Gilpin wrote this lovely scenery into celebrity, and Lord North, when Premier, made the tour in 1776. *John Kyrle*, Pope's 'Man of Ross,' a plain country gentleman, born in 1637, at Dymock, and educated at Balliol, Oxford, to which College he gave a tankard, resided here, and was buried in the ch. 1724. His merits, though great from his acts of benevolence and usefulness, have probably been surpassed by many to fame unknown, "Carent quia vate sacro." Pope, by the way, is said to have composed his 'Man of Ross' at Pengethley, in the parish of Hentland, near Ross.

The **Church**, in Dec. and Perp. styles, whose 'heaven-directed spire he taught to rise,' and to the tower of which he gave the great bell, occupies a conspicuous position. The E. window of the chancel contains very good stained glass, inserted about the reign of Henry VII. The spire was seriously injured by lightning in 1852, but has been rebuilt with great care and success; its height is 208 ft. Several of the elm-trees planted by Kyrle survive, while some that were cut down have sent forth under the walls vigorous shoots, which grow within the building. He was buried under a blue stone in front of the altar, and a tablet on the wall was affixed in 1776, through a bequest for that purpose by Lady Dupplin, his kinswoman. His fireside chair is placed in the chancel. A church bell, cast at Gloucester by Rudhall, in 1692, bears Kyrle's name. He threw his silver tankard into the furnace, at the casting, after drinking to his king and country.

Amongst the monuments are those of William Rudhall, serjeant-at-law,

and his wife (temp. Henry VIII.): their effigies exquisitely sculptured in Italian marble, in the costume of Henry VII. Also a large mural monument to William Rudhall and his wife Margaret (1609), in a kneeling position and Elizabethan dress. John Rudhall (1636), holding his wife by the hand; and for the last heir male of the family William Rudhall (1651), an officer in the Royalist army, who stands erect in marble, arranged in the costume of a Roman general, with a modern sword. This well-executed piece of statuary was erected as a pledge of affection by a maiden lady, Maria Suron. There is a white marble bust of Mr. Westfaling, d. 1814, by *Theed* (with a Latin inscription from the pen of Bishop Luxmoore), on a pedestal in the form of an altar; in front is a bas-relief of Charity instructing children.

Among the memorials in the ch.-yd. is a slender E. Eng. cross by *G. G. Scott*, to a daughter of Geo. Strong, M.D.; it rises 20 ft. from the ground, and the shaft consists of 4 clustered columns pointed by an enrichment of dog-tooth moulding. In the N.E. corner are remains of a decayed cross, marking 315 burials from the ravages of the plague.

On the brow of the hill overlooking the Wye, and adjoining the ch.-yd., is the **Prospect** which belonged to Kyrle, and was his favourite walk. There is a convenient private access to it from the grounds of the Royal Hotel. Here stood the Conduit which was supplied with water from the rain by an engine at his expense.

"From the dry rock who bade the water flow?"

"He feeds the almshouse, neat yet void of state;
There age and want sit smiling at the gate,"

refers to the Rudhall hospital, which stood at a corner of the ch.-yd.

The "Prospect" has been partly enclosed in the grounds of the hotel, which caused serious riots in 1869, a large portion of the inhabitants declaring that it belonged to the public.

The old market house, in which the Man of Ross "divided the weekly bread," is disused, and a commodious building erected on another site. The house—now a chemist's shop—occupied by John Kyrle is in the market-place; and that in which Charles I. slept was in Church Lane.

At Ross the traveller may bid adieu to the locomotive, and journey either by the turnpike road or water; in either case following a route probably unrivalled for that peculiar style of scenic beauty that results from the mixture of rich and well-cultivated grass-land with abrupt cliffs, lofty hills, and woods descending to the water's edge. At the bottom of the descent the Wye is crossed by an old bridge of 5 arches, defended by **Wilton Castle,** the shell of which remains as a picturesque ruin at the water's edge on the rt. First erected in the reign of Stephen to defend the ford, and rebuilt temp Elizabeth, it was partially demolished during the Civil Wars. It belonged to the Lords Grey de Wilton until 1555, when Edward Lord Grey, being a prisoner in France, was compelled to sell this and other estates to raise the sums demanded for his ransom. It was purchased in the reign of Elizabeth by the Hon. Charles Brydges, cupbearer to King Philip, second son of Sir John Brydges, first Baron Chandos, with whose descendants it continued until the reign of George I., when, in 1722, it was sold by the Duke of Chandos to the Governors of Guy's Hospital. It is quadrilateral, with 2 round towers at the S. angles; those to the N. being triangular. On the E. side is a semicircular bastion,

"The oldest portion of the existing remains is the S.W. tower, but the Castle was doubtless remodelled in the 15th centy.; and the windows which escaped destruction in the Civil War show plainly that the building at that time was rather a castellated mansion than a military fortress."—*Robinson:* 'Castles of Herefordshire.'

The piers of the **bridge** erected in 1559 are massive. The arch nearest Wilton was broken down in 1644, by Col. William Rudhall, to impede the advance of Massie's forces.

¾ m. At the turnpike, the road to Hereford is on rt.; that to Monmouth on l., running close alongside of the river, and affording good views of its graceful windings. At one point the picturesque spire and turrets of Goodrich Court are well seen, and beyond it the rugged outline of Goodrich Castle, the last fortress, except Pendennis, which held out for the king. On the rt. of the road the cliff is prettily draped with wild brier and eglantine falling from above.

15½ m. **Pencraig Court** (Rev. W. Holt-Beever), commanding a fine view; and ½ m. beyond, on the summit of the hill, is **Goodrich Court,** the seat of George Moffatt, Esq., at the entrance of which is a handsome lodge with an Edwardian arch, drum towers, and high shingled roof. A drawbridge is crossed to the doorway, guarded by a portcullis, and flanked by two round towers. The house, a modern one, was built in the same Edwardian style by Sir Samuel Meyrick in 1828–31, to form a depository for his curiosities, amongst which the arms and armour (now in the South Kensington Museum) were unrivalled in any private collection in Europe. The same attention is paid to the arrangement of the antique furniture as to the exterior appearance of the mansion. Visitors are admitted on certain days, about which enquiry should be made beforehand. In the great drawing-room are portraits of Lord Howard of Effingham, who commanded the English fleet against the Armada; Anne of Denmark; Villiers, Duke of Buckingham. In the private apartments are a carving in wood by *Hans Schaufelin;* miniature portraits of Henry VIII. and Anne of Cleves, *Holbein;* Luther and wife, *L. Kranach.* The oak ceiling of the library was executed in Italy, and brought from the Government House at Breda. There are also portraits of Charles II., Louis XIV., and Nell Gwynn, by *Lely.* The **Doucean Museum,** containing a valuable collection of Greek, Roman, Egyptian, and Oriental antiquities, bequeathed by Francis Douce, Esq., to the late Sir S. Meyrick, was removed by Col. Meyrick when he sold Goodrich Court.

Separated by a dingle, and on an eminence to the l., overhanging the river, is **Goodrich Castle,** the beautiful situation of which at once arrests the attention. Externally the most striking feature of the ivy-clad ruins is the gate-way, showing beneath its arches the lofty window of the opposite tower. The plan of the castle was a parallelogram, flanked by round towers at the angles, and the entrance is carried through a narrow passage 50 ft. long, constructed for a number of successive portcullises. On the W. side is the Edwardian banqueting hall, and on the S., festooned with ivy and clematis, the keep, wrongly said to be Anglo-Saxon, though certainly the most ancient part of the castle. Adjoining the entrance, and parallel with the passage on its left side, was the chapel (temp. Henry VI. and VII.), and close by it an octagonal watch-tower. A small fort, erected by one Godric, seems to have been the origin of Goodrich, whose principal history, however, took place in the Civil

War, when, in 1646, it held out gallantly under Sir Henry Lingen for the king against a Parliamentary army, under Col. Birch. The three-storied Norman keep is said to have been built by Macbeth, an Irish commander, as a ransom for himself and son, who were made prisoners in the fortress. It was successively the residence of the Marshalls and De Valences, Earls of Pembroke, and the Talbots, until, in 1606, it passed with a co-heiress to the Greys, Earls of Kent, with which noble family it remained until the reign of George II., when it was sold to Admiral Griffin, of Hadnock, near Monmouth, to whose granddaughter, Mrs. Marriott, widow of Major Charles Marriott of the Fort, Monmouth, it now belongs. Goodrich Castle specially deserves a visit, both from its excellent preservation and its situation. The keys are kept in a cottage in the village. About a quarter of a mile from the castle are the faint vestiges of an Augustinian Priory, founded by Sir Richard Talbot in 1347.

From the S.W. window there is a charming view of the vale of the Wye,—

"the delight of my eyes and the very seat of pleasure."—*Gray.*

with Ross in the distance, backed up by the wooded outline of Penyard Hill; in the foreground are Walford church and village, and on the rt. the woods of Bishopswood. In Goodrich church (which is double aisled) is preserved a chalice presented by Dean Swift, whose grandfather was the loyal and much-enduring vicar of the parish at the time of the rebellion. The Dean's connection with the locality has been celebrated in the following remarkable lines :—

"Jonathan Swift
Had this gift—
By fatheridge, brotheridge,
And by motheridge,
To come from Gotheridge."

On l. are **Rocklands** (J. M. Herbert, Esq.), and **Goodrich House** (Rev. J. Herbert). The Marquis of Ripon derives his title of Viscount from this parish.

Just below is **Huntsham Ferry,** where Henry IV., hastening to Monmouth to see his Queen, who was near her confinement, was met by a messenger announcing the birth of his son Henry and the safety of his wife. In gratitude the King bestowed the ferry upon the person and his descendants for ever, a grant which still exists.

6 m. ♁ **Whitchurch,** picturesquely situated in a deep hollow, with a small church by the river-side, is a village lying in the midst of a district famous for its beautiful scenery, and rich in attractions for the angler, the botanist, and the geologist.

On **Little Doward Hill,** which lies to the W. of the Great Doward, is an early British camp of large dimensions, comprising nearly 20 acres within the inner vallum. The outer vallum is constructed to the point where the hill rises very abruptly from the river, and approach appears to be impossible. On the brow of the hill, overlooking the Wye, huge masses of rock stand out in rugged boldness, and the view of the river winding beneath the deep gorge of well-wooded rocks is very fine. On the opposite side is **"Symond's Yat,"** on which Ostorius is supposed to have stationed his forces. Here, according to Gibson's 'Camden,' were found "broad arrow-heads, and a giant skeleton, which, if still on view, would establish the modern 'deterioration' theory."

8 m. **Ganerew.** [To the rt. is **Sellers Brook** (Mrs. Marriott) and (2½ m.) **Buckholt Mt.,** on the S. spur of which is a strong British

camp, overgrown with underwood. 4 m. are the ruins of **Pembridge Castle,** the residence of Sir Richard Pembridge, 1375. The remains are surrounded by a moat, having on W. side a terrace 25 ft. in width, defended by a banquette of earth, and are in a comparatively perfect condition. In the Civil Wars it was garrisoned for the King, and taken by Massie in 1644.] On l. is **Wyaston Leys,** the charming seat of Mrs. Bannerman, situated on a steep slope at the bend of the Wye, and commanding unrivalled views both up and down the river. On the top of the hill, in the park, is an observatory of iron trestlework, 70 ft. in height, with an open winding staircase, commanding exquisite views of the Wye and the Bristol Channel.

The great Doward may be ascended by the pedestrian from the Monmouth end of the village of Whitchurch, though it is rather a rugged and toilsome march. To repay him when he has accomplished it are several "bone-caves," similar to that known as King Arthur's Cave on the western slope, which have been explored by Mr. W. S. Symonds and Prof. Boyd Dawkins, and have been found to contain the bones of the hyæna and the cave lion, the reindeer, mammoth, and the tichorhine rhinoceros. Several rare plants flourish on this hill, *e.g.*, the *Fly* and *Bee orchis, Carex montana, Aquilegia vulgaris, Arabis stricta, Geranium sanguineum, G. lucidum,* and a rare bramble, commemorated by Mr. E. Lees, and called *Rubus ballidus.* From a resting-point at about ¼ m. from the nearest cave, the tourist catches a splendid view of Monmouth and the Wye.

10½ m. **Monmouth.**

Another route may be taken from Ross, on the left bank of the Wye, towards **Lydbrook,** past Whythall, a picturesque old manor-house, occupied by Cromwell during the siege of Goodrich Castle, and ascending to the forest by Kiln Green and Dundle Hole. By this route the traveller passes Walford and Bishopswood, which will be noticed in the account of the Rly. and the Wye tours from Ross to Monmouth.

The Wye Tour.—The tourist by water from Ross loses companionship with the road at Goodrich Court, and sails down the current of "devious Vaga," which indeed becomes so meandering, that the distance from hence to the Leys, which by road is only 4 m., is not much less than 12 by water.

Passing Goodrich Court and Castle, the boat reaches

Kerne Bridge, just above which on the rt. is a barn, the remains of **Flanesford Priory,** founded by Richard Talbot in 1347. A road here crosses the river from Ross to Monmouth on the l. bank, passing through the pretty village of **Walford.** In their progress down the river, visitors will see small fishing-boats called *coracles,* made of tarred canvas strained over a wicker frame in shape like the half of a walnut-shell. They are very light and portable, weighing about 12 lbs., very fragile, holding only one person, and a rub against a stone in shooting a rapid generally causes mischief. They are used also on the Usk and the Dee and the Teifi.

The scenery now becomes more diversified, the Wye flowing between beautifully wooded hills. About ½ m. below the bridge on l. is the villa of **Hazlehurst** (Miss Phillips), and lower down **Bishopswood House** (W. Partridge, Esq.). In the distance is the spire of Ruardean Church.

On a considerable eminence, the river winding with snakelike turnings on each side of it, is **Courtfield**

(Col. Vaughan), occupying the site of a house of the Countess of Salisbury, where Henry V. is said to have been nursed; and in **Welsh Bicknor Church,** on the rt. bank, is a monumental effigy supposed to have been that of the king's nurse, but declared by the late Sir Samuel Meyrick to be of the time of Edward I. The Countess of Salisbury's husband had inherited the Manor of Welsh Bicknor from his mother Katherine, daughter of William de Grandison; and she was a widow in 1397, and died in 1414. The ch. of Welsh Bicknor is quite modern, and in the Norm. and E. E. styles.

At **Lydbrook,** on the l. bank, nearly opposite Courtfield, the tourist is in touch with a branch of the Midl. Rlwy. Co., which will take him to Bristol and the North, crossing the Severn by Severn Bridge.

Dropping down the stream, the tourist next arrives at **Coldwell Rocks,** which present a combination of river scenery as fine as any in Britain. The rt. bank is guarded by a range of high precipitous limestone rocks, overhung with underwood and traversed by deep gullies, while on the opposite side the delicious hill of **Rosemary Topping** affords a magnificent and beautiful contrast. At the termination of this range of crags the Wye takes a sudden bend and a sweep of such unexpected length, that the distance across the neck of the peninsula, where the tourist can rejoin the river, is only 600 yards, while its windings extend for more than 4 m. To save time, the visitor is recommended to send the boat round by **Huntsham Ferry** and **Whitchurch,** and ascend **Symond's Yat,** or Gate, a high hill, occupying the interval between the bend. From the summit (540 ft.) a view is gained unrivalled for beauty and variety. On the rt. are the romantic rocks of Coldwell, with the river running in a deep gorge below; on the l. is another reach at New Weir, hemmed in by the steep sides of the Great Doward, while in the distance the eye ranges over the villages, woods, and hills, for miles and miles.

"But Wye (from her dear Lug whom nothing can restrain
In many a pleasant shade her joy to entertain)
To Ross her course directs, and well her name to show,
Oft windeth in her way, as back she meant to go.
Mæander, who is said so intricate to be
Hath not so many nooks or crankling winds as she."—*Drayton*

On the l. from Symond's Yat, are the **Bicknor Walks,** extending for a mile or more towards Bicknor Court and the village of English Bicknor, and looking down for the whole of the way on the silver winding Wye. Except in the steep ascent, the character of these walks is not unlike that of the Torrent Walks under Dolgelly.

[The scenery is equally beautiful at **New Weir,** where formerly existed a salmon weir. This fish was once so plentiful, that the apprentices of Ross and Monmouth are said to have had a clause inserted in their indentures to the effect that they should not be obliged to eat it more than three times a week. On the rt. bank is the lofty encampment of the Great Doward, jagged with many quarries and perforated by mining galleries supposed to be Roman. One is called King Arthur's Hall. Another turn of the river brings the tourist in front of the **Little Doward** Hill, on which is a British camp, still retaining traces of ramparts. At its foot, sloping down to the river, is the park of **Wyaston,** formerly the *Leys*, soon after which the river again joins fellowship with the turnpike-road. Soon after passing the Leys the river enters Monmouthshire,

having Hadnock and its woods on the l., and **Newton** (Major Tyler) on the rt.]

9½ on l. **Dixton,** a small ancient church with a low broach-spire. The ch. here is so close to the river bank that in the heavy floods of 1759 and 1798 the inundation is said to have burst through windows, and torn up the pulpit, seats, &c. The vicarage is on the opposite bank of the Wye. Here may not unfrequently be seen that old-world institution — the "coracle."

[The wooded hill above, on the opposite bank, is the **Kymin,** from the summit of which is a glorious panorama of the country round for many a league. Walks have been made through the plantations to a pavilion and a temple, built to record the naval victories obtained by the English during the American war. It was erected in 1800, and the frieze is decorated with medallions of British Admirals. From hence a short but beautiful walk through Bewdley or Beaulieu Wood will bring the visitor to the **Buckstone,** one of the most celebrated Rocking-Stones in England, which has, however, been recently thrown out of place by the foolish horse-play of some visitors. It is situated on a conspicuous eminence of Staunton Hill (954 ft.), the circumference being about 53 ft., and the apex of the point about 3 ft. in diameter. It is said to have derived its name from being the usual spot for hearkening to the hounds, when in pursuit of deer through the forest. The stone itself is of old red conglomerate, and it is most probable that it has been detached from the underlying rock by natural causes. **Staunton Church** is of late Norm. character, with E. E. and Dec. alterations. It possesses an ancient stone pulpit and a font apparently fashioned out of a Roman altar. The stone pulpit is reached by a staircase conducting also to the rood-loft, and is said to have been built up for many years to hide it from the Puritans. This church has been well and thoroughly restored. There is a *maenhir* in this parish.]

There is no doubt that the Romans were here, the very name of Stane Town, or the Town of the Stone Street, implying it: and in corroboration there are traces of a Roman road leading up the Kymin from the river-bank, besides intrenchments near the ch. and heaps of slag or cinders.

10½ m. ♁ **Monmouth,** so called from its situation at the confluence of the Monnow with the Wye (Rte. 5). The entrance to the town, which is said to have been on the site of the Roman *Blestium,* is rather striking. On the l. is the parish church, with a handsome Dec. tower and spire, while in front of it, a Perp. oriel window and panelled wall remain as fragments of the **Priory,** and known as Geoffrey of Monmouth's study. On the rt. the road is seen almost to overhang the Monnow, the market-house standing quite on the edge of the cliff. The market-place, ambitiously called Agincourt Square, contains, in front of the town-hall, a *statue* of Henry V., on which is an inscription recording his birth in the town, Aug. 9, 1387,—

"Ay, he was porn at Monmouth, Captain Gower;"

so that the waters of the Wye may not wash the fact out of the memories of the modern Fluellens. Here too is said to have been born Geoffrey of Monmouth, or Geoffrey ap Arthur, sometime archdeacon of his native town, consecrated Bishop of St. Asaph in 1152, and writer or compiler of a romantic chronicle of England.

The **portcullis,** which henceforth, for many miles, will be seen every now and then, will remind the traveller that he is now within the vast hereditary possessions of the house of Somerset; and if he stay at this particular Beaufort Arms, he may discover that there still "is salmons" in the Wye. The main street is broad, and the houses strike one with an air of ancient irregularity that is highly respectable. The road to Raglan crosses the Monnow by an old bridge, upon which still remains the Welsh or **Bridge Gate,** with two side passages, under which Henry V. doubtless often passed. This is the only one of the four gateways of the town still remaining. Just outside on the l. is the ancient and highly-enriched late Norm. **Chapel of St. Thomas,** which has been imperfectly restored. Only a small fragment of the great hall of the castle remains. It is rather against the identification of Monmouth with the Roman Blestium that few or no Roman relics have ever been found: it is certain that it was afterwards a Norman walled town, of which the only gate left is the Bridge Gate just described. In 1644 Colonel Kyrle, who had originally sided with the Royalists, purchased the favour of the Parliament by betraying Monmouth to General Massey; it was yielded to him by treachery on the 20th Sept. There was sharp fighting shortly afterwards in the immediate neighbourhood. The town possesses an almshouse and **grammar school** (which has of late years produced a Senior Wrangler), founded by William Jones, a native of the neighbouring village of Newland, who amassed a fortune in London in the reign of James I. From Monmouth a light carriage will take the tourist to Huntsham Ferry, which he can cross and then ascend Symond's Yat, and afterwards visit Goodrich. The expedition can be performed in 6 or 7 hours.

In 1874 a branch of the G. W. R. was opened from Ross to Monmouth, which is much to the convenience of the ordinary traveller, though the lover of the picturesque may do better by performing the double journey by road and by river. The line starting from the G. W. R. Stat. passes on the S. of the town under the **Chase Woods,** and at

3 m. **Walford** (Welchford). Whythall, a 15th-centy. timber-house (J. Stratford Collins, Esq.), and **Walford Court,** once the residence of the Kyrles, but now a farmhouse. Col. Kyrle, the "stony-hearted rebel," who married a sister of Waller, the Parliamentarian General, was buried here, and his helmet is still preserved in Walford Ch., an early structure, containing monuments to the Stratfords. **Bishopswood** (W. Partridge, Esq.) is a modern mansion in the Elizabethan style, which was partially destroyed by fire in 1874. A brook, which empties itself into the Wye, here divides Gloucestershire from Herefordshire.

4 m. **Kerne Bridge** Stat. On the opposite bank of the Wye is Gooderich village. **Hazelhurst** (Miss Phillips).

The rly. now crosses the river, and runs by a tunnel under Coppet Wood Hill to

5 m. **Stow Field** Stat. On the l. **Court Field** (Col. Vaughan), and **Welsh Bicknor Ch.** Here a magnificent viaduct carries the Severn and Wye line to what is called Lydbrook Junct. and Stowfield. Near the Lydbrook Tinplate-works, where there is a magnificent viaduct carrying the Severn and Wye line over to the junction at Stowfield. Of this viaduct the measurements are as follows: the central span is 150 ft.; the two end ditto, 120 ft.; on the S. side are three arches 30 ft. each; N. side, two arches, 24 ft.; width of

pins, 30 ft. ; length, 600 ft. ; turnpike road to the rail, 104 ft. ; width over masonry, 16 ft. 4 in. ; at the ironwork, 12 ft. to the centre of girders ; depth of girders, 12 ft. 9 in. ; total cost about 15,000*l.*

[3½ m. **Ruardean Ch.**, of early date, with a curiously sculptured tympanum on the S. door of St. George on horseback, in a fantastic costume of the 12th centy.

East-Bach Court (Rev. Edward Machen).

English Bicknor Ch., on an eminence above the Wye, contains many good monumental tablets, and two stone effigies. It has a pretty ch.-yd., and a block of almshouses erected as a memorial of Mrs. Machen of Eastbach, who died in her 97th year.

Bicknor Court (Sir J. Macleane).

Bicknor House (Miss Davies.)]

Symond's Yat Stat. 8 m., 1½ m. from E. Bicknor.

10 m. *Monmouth* Stat.

Crossing the Wye, the tourist perceives that Monmouth is situated in the centre of a wide basin, surrounded on all sides by undulating hills of great beauty.

1½ m. on rt. bank of the river, at no great distance from the point where the Trothy becomes a tributary of the Wye, on a wooded eminence is **Penallt Church**, and behind it, in the middle of a common, stands a large oak-tree, having a stone seat at its foot.

"When a corpse is brought by, on its way to the place of interment, it is deposited on this stone, and the company sing a psalm over the body. Psalmody over the corpse signifies the conquest of the deceased friend over hell, sin, and death. Here is an evident continuation of the oak and stones of Druidic and Celtic customs altered into a Christian form."—*Roscoe.*

Near Penallt is **Troy House**, a seat of the Duke of Beaufort, deriving its name from the little river which flows through the grounds (Rte. 5).

24½ m., at **Redbrook**, are extensive tinplate works, supplied with fuel from the coal-mines in the Forest of Dean, which extends for many miles on the l. bank of the Wye. Barges crowd the quays, and the loading and unloading of the staple of Redbrook varies here the solitude of the river. The hill on the l. is **Highbury**, the site of an ancient British encampment. A brook runs through the village, separating the counties of Monmouth and Gloucester.

[At **Newland** the visitor will find a large church, which has been recently restored, with a fine tower of the Somersetshire type. In the ch.-yard is an altar-tomb with the effigies of Jenkin Wryall, Forest Ranger, 1457 A.D. In Newland is a hollow oak measuring 40 ft. in circumference, though now only 20 ft. in height, one of the largest in the kingdom.

Coleford is about 3 m. from Redbrook. — *Handbook for Gloucestershire.*]

4½ m. a pretty Gothic cottage, called **Florence**, stands close to the roadside on the l., shrouded in laurels and other evergreens.

Catching a view of *Whitebrook* on the opposite bank, the road continues along the l. bank of the Wye, until at 5½ m. it is carried across to the rt. bank by a handsome iron bridge, spanning the Wye with a single arch, to which point the tide flows in high springs : a little below this on l. is **Bigswear House**, a seat of the Rookes, descended from the admiral who captured Gibraltar. Here are preserved some curious ancient tapestries. The hills behind it are crowned with the village church

and ruined castle of **St. Briavel's,*** named (but erroneously) from St. Bride's well on the outskirts, beneath a Gothic arch. The **Ch.**, partly of Norm. architecture, very ancient, was restored in 1861, and much spoilt thereby — the monument to the Warren family being completely destroyed. The mouldings of the transept aisles are terminated by snakes' heads, similar to those at Glastonbury. The clerestory windows and the mouldings of the arches on the S. side of the nave are similar to those of Malmesbury. The modern tower commands a fine view. The great gateway of the castle, which, according to Giraldus Cambrensis, was built by Milo Fitzwalter, Earl of Hereford, in the reign of Henry I., is defended by two round towers, formerly used as a prison for debtors. One of the rooms contains a box for a turnspit and an old chimney-piece, with the Royal arms on the back of the grate in ancient work. The castle was once occupied by the Lord Warden of the Forest of Dean, and the Constables of St. Briavel from the reign of King John to that of George III. seem to have been noblemen of high rank. The principal features of interest in it are the beautiful *decorated* chimney shaft, surmounted by a horn, the badge of the Constable of the Forest, and an E. Eng. fireplace, still very perfect.

[2½ m. on rt., is **Trelech**, so called from a group of monolith stones, locally associated with Harold, near the village, though not improbably of a much greater antiquity. If the derivation is *tri llech*, there were probably never more than three stones here. To the S.W. of the ch. is a tumulus, said to have been the site of a castle of the Clares. The **Church** is E. Dec., and in the ch.-yd. are some curious gravestones with floriated crosses; also a **sundial**, on which are engraved the three curiosities of Trelech, viz. the stones, the tumulus, and a well.]

7½ m. Near a bend in the river, where quays and boats give fresh evidence of active trade, is situated the pretty little village of **Llandogo**, its cottages rising one above another, interspersed with gardens and orchards, and backed by woods. A new E. E. ch. was built in 1861, in place of the primitive structure dedicated to St. James, in a dell at the foot of a mountain glen. At **Coed Ithel** are some walls of Cyclopean character and a smelting furnace, of possibly Roman date, in excellent preservation. On the hill-side to the l. is the small fall of **Cleddau Shoots**, which, however, is only worth visiting in rainy weather.

10 m., on l. bank, is **Brockweir**, a very little wharf, at which a good deal of business used to be carried on, but the rly. extension has considerably damaged the traffic by barges, and the ship-building trade is entirely at an end. The tide rises 19 ft. Here is a colony of Moravians planted, in 1832, by Lewis West, their minister. To the S. of Brockweir, by a winding mountain-path may be reached "**Offa's Chair**," a token and trace of the famous Clawdd Offa, or **Offa's Dyke**, which commenced at Tidenham, in Gloucestershire.

10½ m. **Tintern Parva**. Its church, defaced by modern alterations, and paved with stones cut out of the monumental flagstones of monks and abbots from the abbey, contains some fragments of Norm. work. The ancient porch still remains. A little above it, at the road-side, stand the scanty remains of the Abbey Hospital and the *mansion* of the Abbot of Tintern, con-

* See Nicholls' 'Forest of Dean' for the most complete account of that district and of St. Briavel's Castle

taining the foundations of a spacious chamber and a portion of an E. Dec. window. It is said to have been sacked by the soldiers of the Parliament.

11 m. Somewhat encroached upon by the high road, which is carried within a stone's throw of its venerable walls, stands ‡**Tintern Abbey**, occupying a narrow strip of level ground on the margin of the river, encircled by hills which form a thickly-wooded amphitheatre around it; and although the solitude is broken and the seclusion somewhat destroyed by the neighbouring tin and iron works, the beauty of the situation and the elegance of the building triumph over this, and Tintern remains the most romantic Cistercian ruin in Britain. In distant views, the four arms of the cross of the church, each terminating in a pointed gable, seen in perspective, have a peculiarly good effect. It gains, however, upon a nearer approach, when the elegant forms of the pillars and arches, "the beauty of composition and delicacy of execution which distinguish it above most other Gothic edifices in this country, can be examined and appreciated." Its architecture exhibits a transition from the E. E. to the Dec. style, and the portions of carving still preserved, the fragments of bosses, keystones, &c., exhibit foliage of most varied fancy and elaborate execution. Although the roof is gone, and one or two pillars have fallen, the walls are entire, and the stone, well-chosen and durable, has been little injured by the weather. Even the mullions of the windows remain tolerably perfect, and the view of the distant hills and woods seen through them is very pleasing. The length of the church is 228 ft., of the transepts 150 ft., and its height 70 ft. in its central arches. The height of the E. window is 64 ft. "This window, with its one tall mullion ramifying at the top, and leaving the large open spaces beneath to admit the distant landscape, is one chief feature of Tintern."—*Gilpin.* It is neatly kept by persons appointed by the Duke of Beaufort, to whom it belongs, and is carpeted with velvet turf, beneath which, in the S. aisle of the nave, a fragment of the original pavement, composed of glazed tiles, bearing the arms of the Bigods and the Clares, has been found. Although the abbey was founded in 1131 for monks of the Cistercian order by Walter de Clare, the existing church, commenced by and carried through by his successors, the Clares, Marshalls, and Bigods, was not completed till 1287, or 156 years later. It was suppressed at the dissolution of the monasteries, and granted by Henry VIII. to Henry Earl of Worcester, from whom it has descended to the Dukes of Beaufort.

Here is a broken cross-legged figure of a knight in chain-armour, thought to be either Richard de Clare (called Strongbow), the conqueror of Ireland in the reign of Henry II., or Roger de Bigod. There is also the tomb of an ecclesiastic, bearing carvings of a cross and several fish. An ornamented but mutilated doorway led into the cloisters, beyond which, to the N. of the nave, are remains of monastic buildings. In the centre, the refectory was provided with a pulpit, in the W. wall, from which homilies were read during meals, as at the Abbey of Shrewsbury; on one side was the kitchen, communicating with it by buttery-hatch through the wall, and on the other the dormitories. An almonry hatch communicates from the refectory with the cloister, to which there is the most direct access by way of the water-gate, for the surrounding poor and for visitors, who made use of the adjacent ferry. In 1847 the remains of an Hospitium or smaller convent for the entertainment of strangers, were

discovered in the orchard during the progress of some excavations. It was a spacious and lofty chamber, with a vaulted stone roof, supported on stone pillars, the massive bases of which still remain.

On the opposite bank of the river a pleasant walk up **Plumber's Cliff**, and through the woods leads to the "*Devil's Pulpit*," from whence a fine view is obtained of the Wye, and not far off, a peep of the Severn. The name and the legend bespeaks a jealousy on the part of his Satanic Majesty highly complimentary to the watchfulness of the monks of Tintern. **Offa's Dyke**, designed as a partition between England and Wales, crosses the tongue of land between the two rivers, and terminates on the Severn near Tidenham. Though obliterated by cultivation, traces of it may be discovered on the common near this.

The *village* is situated in a hollow, whence descends a small stream, made useful in turning the machinery of some forges and iron-works about 1 m. to the rt. They are famed for the manufacture of horse-shoe nails and iron wire. The first mills for wire-drawing in Great Britain were established here in the reign of Elizabeth by a colony of Flemings and Germans, about 1565, before which time all the wire made in England was forged by the hand. Beyond Tintern the river develops a more distinctly tidal character and aspect.

The traveller will soon perceive that the river is again entering into the rocky limestone district. A hill on the l., on which the cliffs first show themselves, presents an appearance as though it had partially let fall its mantle of foliage to expose a bit of its bare rocky side.

The high road slopes gradually upwards from behind the abbey, carried along the shoulder of the hill and at the foot of the precipice, on a sort of terrace. A little way along it one of the best distant views of the abbey may be enjoyed. The rugged cliffs on the l. are called **Bannagor Crags**; those on the rt., rising gradually, attain their greatest height in the **Wyndcliff**, 35 m., the summit of which displays one of the most remarkable and beautiful views in England. From the water-side the ascent is both long and steep, and those who travel in boats had better make a distinct excursion thither from Chepstow by land, or ascend more gradually from the village of **St. Arvan**, a mile nearer Chepstow. At a distance of 2 m. from Tintern, and 3 from Chepstow, the road reaches the **Moss Cottage**, a pretty little summer-house, built by the Duke of Beaufort to accommodate visitors, who may obtain some homely refreshment here, but usually bring their provision-basket with them. The face of the hill above it, though almost precipitous, is thickly clothed with wood, among which are a great number of yews. Zigzag walks, neatly made, and eked out with frequent flights of stone steps made of rude slabs of slaty rock to overcome the steepness, wind upwards among the trunks of the trees, the broken fragments of which offer frequent and grateful seats to the weary. About two-thirds of the way up, a passage is offered by a natural fissure or grotto in the rock. The summit, surmounted by a tuft of trees, is at a height of more than 800 ft. above the Wye. Over the tops of the trees the spectator looks down upon the road, and, far below it, on the river, which at this point makes an extraordinary bend in the shape of a horseshoe or loop, washing the foot of the Wyndcliff. This very tortuous course encircles a small peninsula, occupied by the farm of **Llancaut**, whose chequered patchwork of fields and lines of paths and hedgerows are so completely displayed at his feet, as to resemble a map; indeed, the owner can scarcely need a land survey of

his estate, which lies open to everybody's view. On the rt., just where the Wye disappears, close to the towers of Chepstow, rises a long scar of white cliff, a part of the wall called the **Twelve Apostles,** stretching nearly across the middle distance behind Llancaut peninsula. And now comes the striking and peculiar feature of the view: above the tops of this range of precipices appears a wide stretch of the estuary of the Severn, with vessels and steamers upon it, villages and churches beyond it. This view extends on the rt. down to the islands of Flatholme and Steepholme at the mouth of the Bristol Channel. **Berkeley Castle** and **Thornbury Church** are to be seen to the northward, and there is a glimpse in the far background of the **Black Mountains.** The view is said to comprehend nine counties. It is difficult at first to persuade one's eye that the broad streak of water rising thus high up against the horizon is on a level, or at least only a few inches lower than the deeply-sunk, serpent-like river in the abyss below. An oblique path runs from the top of the Wyndcliff to Tintern, as does a similar path to St. Arvan's, by which the necessity of descending to the Moss Cottage is avoided. The tourist by water, after turning his back upon the Wyndcliff, skirts the peninsula of Llancaut on the l., and on the rt. the rocks and woods of Piercefield, the banks of the river closing into a gorge walled with lofty precipices. The high picturesque buttresses on the rt., with tufts of trees shooting out of the crevices between them, are the Twelve Apostles, while a 13th is named St. Peter's Thumb, and another the Lover's Leap.

14 m. **St. Arvan's.**—A road on rt. branches off to Monmouth over the high grounds of Chepstow Park Wood. [On the opposite side of the Wye, about 1 m. l., is **Llancaut Chapel,** a building of primitive style, containing a leaden font of early date and curious workmanship. It stands on a mural peninsula, enclosed by the bold rocky eminence of the Bannagor and Tidenham crags. This secluded spot was the scene of a most sanguinary conflict in 1642, when it was occupied by a party of Royalists under the indefatigable Sir John Wintour, in order to fortify it and keep the passage of the Wye. Before their position was secured, they were attacked during the period of high water by a superior force of the enemy, and of 180 Royalists scarcely 20 escaped, among whom was Sir John Wintour himself, who fought his way through the enemy to the Tidenham rocks, and, being closely pursued by their dragoons, galloped in desperation over the shelving precipice, escaped unhurt on the ground below, and got away by swimming the river. The place of this successful achievement is still pointed out as "Wintour's Leap." There may have been some confusion between this leap and its hero's escape in a boat, after Col. Massey had defeated a second attempt to fortify the passage. Sceptics aver that the precipice is too abrupt for any to leap and live. Offa's Dyke commences in this parish.]

On rt. a road leads to Usk, 11 m., over part of Wentwood Forest, passing, 2 m. on l., **Itton Court** (E. Curre, Esq.).

15 m. on l. **Piercefield** (Mrs. Clay) stands in an unrivalled situation, overlooking the Bristol Channel and the opposite Gloucestershire hills. The grounds are extensive and varied, but were laid out in the day when the beauties of nature were considered as secondary to those of landscape-gardening,

which developed themselves in grottos and other architectural monstrosities. They were formed by Valentine Morris in 1753, but his lavish expenditure compelled him to part with the estate, and he died a ruined man in 1789. It subsequently became the property of Mr. Wells, and has changed hands again and again. Near the entrance to the park is the site of the former priory of Kynemark, attached to the conventual church of **Chepstow,** 16 m. (Rte. 1), whose venerable castle, overhanging the river, and apparently forming part of the precipice, is a fit closing scene to the prodigal beauties of the Wye. The distance from Ross to Chepstow by water is about 38 m.

A third route from Ross to Chepstow was opened by the continuation of the Great Western line from Monmouth to Chepstow, on Nov. 1, 1876, under the name of the "Wye Valley Rly." A short connecting line from the Monmouth May Hill Stat. (on the opposite side of the Wye Bridge, and close to the town) to the Troy Stat., somewhat to the l. of the Monnow Bridge, conveys the traveller to the terminus at the Monmouth end; and hence the line pursues the l. bank of the river Wye at a high level past Wyesham, and opposite Penalt, to

2½ m. **Redbrook,** a place of considerable traffic by the waterside (see p. 62 *supra*).

Passing thence by Whitebrook, on the opposite bank, it runs 3 m. onward to

Bigswear Stat., 5½ m., which is on the rt. bank of the river, the bridge of Telford spanning it for passengers to St. Briavels and the Forest on the l. (see p. 63).

Passing next by Llandogo to the rt. of rail and river, and also by Brockweir, the line arrives at

8 m. **Tintern** Stat., near the village of Tintern Parva; soon after leaving which, and crossing a handsome girder bridge, it enters the so-called Tintern Tunnel, and catches, on emerging from it, the finest view of the celebrated Abbey hitherto disclosed to the tourist. From no other point is its cruciform character so remarkably displayed, and the difficulty is to satisfy the gaze before, after a rapid glance at the Bannaghor rocks ahead, the rocks of Piercefield, the Twelve Apostles and Wyndcliffe across the river, and Nightingale Valley, whose denizens must run a risk of disturbance, on the l. of the rly., the passenger is whisked into the Denhil Tunnel, 700 ft. above the sea, bored at the height of 150 ft. above the river, and through crags of the height of more than 500 ft. The Denhil Tunnel is ¾ m. long, pierced through a solid mass of carboniferous limestone; and, after quitting this, the train proceeds over the high ground at the highest parts of Tiddenham, with a splendid view of the Severn estuary, the Aust Passage and Cliff, and the underlying country of Gloucestershire to the l., and occasional glimpses of the over-Wye scenery to the rt., until in due course it reaches at

13 m. **Tiddenham** Stat. The ch. here is E. Eng., with Dec. portions, and has an Ang.-Norm. font, with a curiously moulded Norm. leaden bason of earlier date than 1100 A.D.

From Tiddenham Stat. the line descends by a sharp incline towards Chepstow, commanding fine views of the Severn estuary and its surroundings to the l., until a little out of Chepstow it forms a junction with the S. Wales section of the G. W. Rly., and runs into its stat. at Chepstow.

ROUTE 4.

FROM NEWPORT TO HEREFORD, BY PONTYPOOL ROAD AND ABERGAVENNY.

(Great Western Railway.)

Leaving the High Street Station, Newport, a branch of the G. W. R. now runs by Caerleon, Pontnewydd, and Pantêg, to Pontypool Road, in an average space of ½ hr., passing, about Caerleon, some pretty pastoral scenery, and here and there playing hide-and-seek with "trade's unfeeling train."

On rt. is **Llanfrechfa Grange** (F. Mitchell, Esq.).

5 m. at **Pontnewydd** are the tin-plate works of the Messrs. Conway; there are others at Pontrhyd-y-run, a little further on. Soon afterwards the line draws nearer to the mountains, which, losing their rather monotonous outline, break up into groups, between which mountain streams, with their primitive purity somewhat tarnished by the refuse of tin-works and collieries, rush down the wooded glens to join the Afon. The Monmouthshire rly. to Pontypool and Blaenafon soon afterwards parts company with the Great Western, and the traveller arrives at

8 m. the busy PONTYPOOL ROAD JUNCT., where much of the traffic from the Monmouthshire and Glamorganshire collieries and iron-works converges *en route* for Staffordshire, London, and the North. Trains may be seen here in progress of making up for their various destinations, containing steam-coal for the London market, or for loading vessels at Liverpool. From hence is given off the important branch, which cuts lengthways through the coal-basin, and goes across to Quaker's Yard, Aberdare, Merthyr, the Vale of Neath, and Swansea (Rte. 10).

Here, also, passengers change for Usk, Raglan, and Monmouth (Rte. 5). Close to the station are the **Pontymoile** works, belonging to the Ebbwvale Company, and **Pantêg** tin-plate forge (Messrs. Strick), as well as steel-works, l. Pantêg is a rly. stat. On l. are seen the beautiful hanging woods of **Pontypool Park** (E. Hanbury Leigh, Esq.) (Rte. 6).

Little Mill, 9 m., is the point whence the Usk and Monmouth rly. diverges on the rt. On l. is a pretty wooded chain of hills, forming the lower shoulders of the Blorenge, the huge mass of which, together with the peak of the Sugar-loaf and the abrupt escarpment of the Scyrrid or Holy Mountain, form a most charming view to the N.

Underneath the hill (which is crowned by a look-out, or Folly, belonging to the Pontypool Park), is the little sequestered ch. of **Llanfihangel Pontymoile**; and further on **Woodfield** (— Lawrence, Esq.). Near Little Mill, on l., close to the line, is the Monmouthshire **Reformatory School**, and further on, though not seen, is **Goytre**, the seat of Col. Byrde.

11½ m. **Nant y deri** Stat. ("Brook of the Oaks"), 2 m. from which, on rt., the Usk is crossed by a chain suspension-bridge. On the opposite bank of the river is **Brynderwen**, the pretty seat of the Rev. W. Bruce, placed at the foot of a wooded hill, crowned by the encampment of **Coed y Bunedd**, 1440 feet in circumference.

The view from the summit, and indeed from the turnpike-road from Usk to Abergavenny, is most lovely, particularly towards the W., which commands the whole range of the Blorenge, the sharp cone of the Sugar-loaf, and the more massive Scyrrid, backed up by the distant outlines of the Black Mountains. On rt. is **Pantygoitre** (A. D. Berrington, Esq.), and **Llanvair Grange** (Mrs. Little), 14 m. rt. At **Penpergwm** Stat., the line crosses the Usk not far from the primitive-looking church of **Llangattock.** 1½ m. on l. is **Llanover Court** (Lady Llanover), and a little further on is the village of **Llanellen,** a sweet little spot nestling snugly under the slopes of the Blorenge. From hence a picturesque and varied 2 m. brings the traveller into the heart of the Vale of Usk, at 18 m. Abergavenny. (Rte. 12.) Passing at the back of the Lunatic Asylum, from whence the views up the Usk towards Crickhowell are very fine, the railway soon joins the Tredegar and Merthyr line of the London and North-Western system at Abergavenny Junct. (Rte. 11), and enters the valley, formed on the l. by the outlying shoulders of the Sugar-loaf, 1856 ft. high, and on the rt. by the **Scyrrid Fawr,** 1498 ft. high, or the great fissure. It is commonly called the Holy Mountain, and deserves mention from the curious superstitions connected with it, derived from Romish times, and not yet eradicated from the minds of the Welsh peasantry. It receives its name from a fissure caused by a landslip dividing it into two unequal parts, and produced, according to the popular legend, by the earthquake at the time of the Crucifixion. Near the top once stood a small chapel, dedicated to St. Michael, and the resort in former times of large multitudes, chiefly Roman Catholics of the lower classes, who repaired hither on Michaelmas eve on a pilgrimage to the saint. Not very many years ago it was customary with the Welsh farmers and peasantry to send from a considerable distance for sack-loads of earth out of the fissure of the Holy Mount, which they sprinkled over their stables, pigsties, and even houses, to avert evil, especially reserving portions of it to strew over the coffins and graves of themselves and their relatives. The view from the summit of the Scyrrid is magnificent, comprising a panorama of great extent—Newport, the Bristol Channel, and Somersetshire hills to the S., Hereford, the Woolhope range, Gloucester Cathedral, May Hill, the Rowley and Clent hills, and the Malverns to the E., with, on the N., the Church Stretton mountains, the Clee hills, the Stiperstones, and, on a very clear day, the Berwyns in Merionethshire. At the foot on the Abergavenny side is **Llanddewi Ch.** and **Court** (W. B. Partridge, Esq.).

From Abergavenny Junct. it is a continuous incline up the valley of the Gavenny to Llanvihangel Crucorney. Opposite the junction is **Maindiff Court** (C. Bailey, Esq.). 21 m., on the l., the line passes the quaint little ch. of **Llantilio Pertholey**, with its irregular ground-plan. A curious deed is preserved here in the original desk, under three locks, containing a grant of pasturage and other liberties in the forest of Moyle, from Jasper, Duke of Bedford, as Lord of Abergavenny, to the parishes. On the opposite bank to the rly. is an old farmhouse—the White House, or *Tygwyn*, the former residence of the Floyer Family; and further on under the Sugar-loaf, is *Triley Court* (T. P. Price, Esq., M.P.).

Passing l. the steep slopes of *Bryn Erw*, the train reaches **Llanfihangel Crucorney** private stat. 21 m. On rt.

the fine timber denotes the situation of **Llanfihangel Court** (the seat of the Hon. W. P. Rodney), chiefly remarkable for its magnificent avenue of Scotch firs, which are considered the finest in the kingdom, and for which, some sixty years ago, the Government offered 10,000*l.* The house is ancient, but the gable end facing the avenue and the terrace front were added, 1559, by the then possessor, Rhys Morgan, to the older building. It passed to the Arnolds, and thence to the Harleys, in the reign of Queen Anne, and from them to the present owner. 2 m. nearer Hereford, by road, is **Campston Hill** (an ancient encampment) and **Campston House** (now a farmhouse), where Charles I. rested a night in passing through Monmouthshire.

[Llanfihangel is the nearest stat. to ♱ **Llanthony Abbey**, about 6 m. distant on the l.; but as no conveyance can be obtained at the village, it would be better for the non-pedestrian visitor to start from Abergavenny or even Hereford. Another route is from Talgarth, on the H.H. and Brecon line. The way lies up the valley of the brawling Honddu, and, not far from the station, passes through an avenue of fir trees planted by Jacobite residents in the neighbourhood. Some farmhouses of the name of Upper and Lower Stanton (Stane Town) seem to point to the Roman road from Abergavenny (Gobannium) to Old Castle and Magna (Kenchester). The views which greet the traveller at every step are lovely, particularly at **Cwmyoy**, 3 m., where the mountains are almost grand in their sudden curves and precipitous escarpments. The eye ranges over long reaches in the Vale of Ewias, which becomes more secluded and solitary at every step, and impresses one strongly with the fitness of the locality for a conventual establishment. **Llanthony**, properly called by the Welsh "Llanddewi Nant Honddu," or the Church of David on the Honddu, stands in the Vale of Ewias, deep and silent in the heart of the Black Mountains, in the N. angle of Monmouthshire, "the lower parts of the hills and the valley itself," as in the description of Giraldus, "enriched with pleasant meadows, interspersed with cornfields, and now and then enlivened with woods and coppices." This priory of Austin canons appears to be in point of style transitional from Norm. to E.E., and advancing in the W. front into fully developed E. E. "Except in the W. front it really comes nearest to the style of St. David's, being less advanced than that of Llandaff, but as all the principal arches are pointed, the general effect has a nearer resemblance to that of the last-mentioned cathedral." —*Freeman.* The ruins show it to have been cruciform, with a central and two W. towers. The 3 lower stages of the latter, and the lower stage of the W. front connecting them remain tolerably perfect. The ruins are now the property of the representatives of the late Walter Savage Landor, who resided near the abbey for some time. The N. side of the nave, including fragments of the triforium, remains; but the S. side is gone, as are also both aisles; portions of the transept however are standing, and a part of the central tower and choir. The central tower must always have been very massive, and this impression is enhanced now that its upper portion is destroyed, and it only reaches a little below the apex of the roof, and that only on the W. and S. side. S. of, and connected with the S. transept, is the Chapter-house, now ruined, an oblong room with a polygonal E. end; and joining the two is an oblong chamber 24 ft. by 11 ft., vaulted and groined, and in good preservation. At the

S.W. corner of the quadrangle lay the Prior's house, which, with the adjoining tower of the ch., forms the inn. A fragment of the lid of a tomb of E. E. date is supposed to have covered the bones of Walter, titular Earl of Hereford, who was buried in the Chapter-house.

The whole length of the church was 212 ft., and of the transepts 96 ft. The breadth including the aisles = 50 ft.

It appears from a very creditable plate given by Wyndham, in 1780, that at that time the whole nave, except the roof, remained; and that the E. window was of Dec. date, no doubt an insertion in the place of lancet windows like those of the W. end. In 1800 the views given by Coxe were drawn, in which 2 stories of the central tower, clear of the roof, remained, and at the W. end, a triple window and 4 ranges of pointed arcades. The W. front fell in 1801–3, and much of the S. aisle and nave in 1837. The conventual building covered 7 acres enclosed within a wall. The ruins of the refectory remain, but the hospitium is a barn. There is also a curious vaulted sewer, and a vivarium or fishpond E. of the church. Leland states that this priory was originally a cell of the patron saint of Wales, in favour of which conjecture the name is the only tangible evidence. Southey, with a licence exceeding that of Laureates, affirms,

> "Here was it, stranger, that the patron saint
> Of Cambria pass'd his age of penitence,
> A solitary man; and here he made
> His hermitage, the roots his food, his drink
> Of Honddu's mountain stream."

In 1100, in the reign of Henry I., William, a Norm. knight and retainer of De Lacy, who conquered the district of Ewias, retired hither to lead the life of an anchorite, and was joined, in 1103, by Ernisius, chaplain to the "good Queen Maud." Their joint ch., dedicated in 1108 to St. John the Baptist, is probably the Norm. parochial chapel of St. David's, still standing, as does the priory, in the parish of Cwmyoy. Enriched by the De Lacys, and favoured by Henry, Maud, and the celebrated statesman and church-builder Roger Bishop of Sarum, 1107, a monastery was founded, of which Ernisius became 1st prior. Walter of Gloucester, Earl of Hereford and Constable of England, ended his days here in a monastic habit. Robert de Betun, miraculously called, became 2nd prior, and brought great store of sanctity, and some of worldly fame and pelf, to the house. In 1131 he became Bishop of Hereford. In the government of Robert de Braci, 3rd prior, the convent, being sorely beset by the insurgent Welsh, took advantage of a gift of lands from Milo Earl of Hereford, and the monks migrated to Gloucester in 1136, where they built and occupied a 2nd Llanthony near that city. The 4th prior was William of Wycombe. Clement, the 5th prior, ruled between 1150–70, and made great exertions to move the conventual establishment back to Ewias. As it is evident that the present building is not earlier than his priorate, some have concluded it to have been wholly his work, constructed with a view to bring back his flock, and enable them to dwell in safety. After his death, however, the priory seems to have fallen into neglect; and in the reign of Edward IV. a royal licence finally merged Llanthony of Ewias in her daughter of Gloucester, alleging as a reason the turbulence of the people, and, proh pudor! the irregular lives of John Adams the prior and his 4 canons. A particular interest attaches to this establishment on account of the contemporary histories of Prior Betun (1131), Prior William of Wycombe (1137), and one of its monks (from 1103 to 1203). It was also described by Giraldus Cambrensis (1188). An

excellent historical account of the priory, with copious extracts from chronicles, was published by the Rev. G. Roberts, in the 'Archæologia Cambrensis,' vol. ii., and also an architectural paper by E. A. Freeman, Esq., in the 3rd series of the same, vol. i. pp. 82–109. Mr. Freeman regards the approximate date of Llanthony Priory as 1200, and sees no evidence against a rebuilding, which architectural science renders certain, at that date. He suggests that it was probably rebuilt when the relations of the two foundations became finally settled, and the Monmouthshire Llanthony a distinct, if subordinate, foundation.

Llanthony is a capital starting point for excursions amid the Black Mountains.

The road continues up the valley for 4½ m. to the mountain village of **Capel y Ffin,** from whence a path across the escarpments of the Black Mountains leads to Hay (Rte. 16), about 14 m. from Llanthony. Near Capel y Ffin a monastery has been erected (1870), on a site where two valleys meet, of singular beauty, by the Rev. Mr. Lyne (Ignatius). Visitors are shown the church, and are offered refreshments by the hospitable brethren. Between the Priory and Cwmyoy a path to l. goes over the hill at Dial-garreg to Partrishow (Rte. 12) and Crickhowell, 7 m.]

24 m. **Pandy** Stat. On l. are *Trewyn* (J. Lilburn Rosher, Esq.), approached through a fine avenue of Scotch firs, and the farmhouse of **Allt-yr-ynys,** formerly a seat of the Cecil family, ancestors of the Marquises of Exeter and Salisbury. For some miles onwards the rly. runs in close proximity to the river Monnow, and here and there some pretty views are to be had. Along its further bank runs a well-kept private road, which is still available (anomalously) to those who choose to pay toll for using it. [The Hatterill, or Black Mountains, here sweep off to the l. towards **Old Castle** and **Longtown,** two villages, each possessing the fragments of a castle. Old Castle is remarkable for having once been the residence of Sir John Oldcastle, the martyr of the Lollards.

Longtown, or as it was called in earlier times Ewyas Lacy, Castle, was once an important link in the armed chain of fortresses erected along the frontiers of England to keep the rebellious Welsh within their limits. It was the original seat of the Lacys in the Marches of Wales; and passed by marriage through the families of De Verdon, Despenser, and Beauchamp, to the Nevilles, Earls of Abergavenny, whose property it still is. The keep is thought to have been built prior to the Conquest. Of its ruin, enough remains to disclose its original form. An outer wall, composed of mould and stones, raised at least to the height of 20 ft., enclosed about 100 yards square, in the N.W. angle of which, on a keep somewhat higher than the wall, stood a circular tower, of which the greater portion remains. The walls are very thick, being composed of hard stone dug up in laminæ, not much exceeding a common file in thickness. The area enclosed within the outer wall was equally divided by a ditch brought to the level of the ground on the outside from N. to S. The part towards the W. was also divided in the contrary direction by a strong wall, through which a communication was opened between the inner and outer courts by an arched gateway, having circular pillars of great strength projecting on each side.]

Passing rt. the little modest ch. of **Llangua,** occupying the site of an alien Priory of Black Monks, and **Monmouth Cap,** once a celebrated inn, and now, after several muta-

tions, a farmhouse, the traveller arrives at

29 m. **Pontrilas** Stat., a little to l. of which is *Pontrilas Court*, a fine old Elizabethan mansion, which has of late years been from time to time let as an *hotel*, much frequented by anglers; at present it is kept as a boarding-house for angling parties. The Dore, Kent, and Monnow are amongst the best trout streams in the country. The scenery in the neighbourhood is of a broken and lovely character.

[An excursion can be taken on l. up the **Golden Valley,** so called from the river Dore, which runs through it. This is, however, a curious misnomer, as the Dore is, in reality, nothing more than "dwr," the old British name for water.

1½ m. **Ewias Harold,** a very picturesque village of historical interest. In the wall of the small E. E. ch., which has a massive tower of two stages, the uppermost lighted by an E. E. window of three lights, was found the heart of a lady enclosed in a casket, which must have reposed there for upwards of 500 years. It was usual, during the middle ages, to place the hearts of founders and benefactors in this kind of reliquary. Near the ch. is the site of the ancient *Castle*, of which Leland writes:— "The fame is that it was builded by Harold before he was kynge; and when he overcame the Welsch men, Harold gave this castell to his bastard. Great part yet standynge, and a chapel in it. There is a village by the castell, called Ewis Harolde." In the Domesday surveys the Castle of Ewias is said to be held of King William by Alured de Merleberge. The name of Harold is held by Mr. Fowle and Mr. Robinson to point to Harold, son of Ralph, sometime Earl of Hereford, but displaced by the Conqueror. Symonds, the antiquary, who visited Ewias Harold in 1645 with a detachment of the royal army, speaks of the castle as in the main ruinous and gone. Certainly it is so now.

2½ m. **Abbey Dore Ch.**, an interesting edifice amidst fields and woods, at the S. extremity of a fertile valley watered by the river Dore. The monastery, of which the ch. is the only relic, was founded by Robert of Ewias and son of Harold, Lord of Ewias, for monks of the Cistercian order. All the conventual buildings were destroyed, with the exception of one small gable and some ruined walls. The nave of the ch. is also gone, except one arch; but what remains is very fine. The style throughout is E.E., and of that beautiful type in which the capitals are usually found with a square abacus, and the foliage still retains a Norm. character. The existing portions of the ch. consist of the transept, choir with aisles, and 5 chapels to the E. of it. At what was once the intersection of the nave and transept, are 4 lofty arches of great span. E. of each transept are 2 arches, one leading into the choir aisle. The choir consists of 3 bays, each containing a large lancet window. The most beautiful and characteristic part of the ch. is to the E. of the choir, where is a double aisle, divided by 4 clustered columns and lighted by lancet windows. These chapels and aisles are vaulted, as were also the choir and transept, although these latter have now a flat wooden roof. There are several piscinæ and ambreys worth notice, and some hinges of beautiful workmanship on the door in the N. aisle of the choir. In the N. wall is the small effigy of a supposed boy bishop (13th cent.), though it has been suggested that it perhaps indicates that here is buried the *heart* of Bishop John Breton of Hereford of that date. In two of the E. chapels are some altar-tombs of later date

than the ch., with figures of knights in chain-armour. The tower is abnormally placed in the S.E. angle of the choir, which is 84 ft. long, 32 ft. broad, and 46 in height. The communion table is a remarkable slab, 12 ft. long and 4 broad, said to have been the slab of the original high altar, and to have been rescued from a dairy to which it had been transferred. Above the altar are windows filled with painted glass of a very superior kind, and under it are some coloured paving-tiles with raised patterns. The rich screen dividing the chancel and nave exhibits the arms of England, the see of Hereford, and John, Viscount Scudamore, by whose liberality the transept was new roofed and the building repaired.

On the return to Pontrilas, a détour on the l. may be made of 1½ m. to the interesting little **Ch.** of **Rowlstone.** The nave is Norm., with a curious tympanum over the doorway (temp. Henry II.), representing our Saviour seated, surrounded by an elliptical amicle, supported by angels. The chancel arch has several figures, two of which have their heads downwards, supposed to represent St. Peter crucified. The continuation of the moulding of the arch down to the jambs, both here and at the doorway, without any break, is an Irish and Welsh feature. The ch. was dedicated to St. Peter, and it is believed that this is referred to by the sculpture of several cocks. In the chancel are two extraordinary pieces of iron-work, considered by archæologists to be intended for candelabra. These are attached to the N. and S. walls of the chancel, and are ornamented with cocks, rude fleurs-de-lis, and sockets for candles. It has been conceived that their original position was on the top of the screen. In the ch. is a Bible in Welsh, printed in 1588.

[On rt. about 1½ m. are **Kentchurch** village and **Court** (the residence of Col. Scudamore), a castellated mansion, from designs by *Nash*, replacing a quaintly irregular house, of which one tower remains, and situated in an extensive deer-park on the western slope of Garway Hill. In the interior is a portrait of John of Kent, who is much associated with this district. The Scudamores have been seated here since the 14th centy., and a Sir John Scudamore married a daughter of Owain Glyndwr, who is supposed to have been identical with the mysterious John-a-Kent or Gwent. The court is approached by a long elm avenue. The walls of the church are covered with memorials of this family.

The village of **Garway** has some interesting remains. The tower of the ch. is detached, and stands at a considerable angle to the nave, to the N. corner of which it is joined by a short passage. The chancel arch is Norm., the shafts having plain capitals. The outline of its soffit is cut so as to form a series of small projecting trefoils, affording a somewhat Saracenic look, which accords with the associations of the Knights Templars with Garway, where they established a Preceptory in the 12th centy. The old altar forms part of the chancel pavement, and there are some good early crosses in slab. The **Dovecot** is a curious and almost unique building of the 14th centy. It is entered on the S. by an arched doorway. Accommodation was provided for 500 doves. In the 14th compartment from the floor are certain crosslets and marks pertaining to the order of the Hospitallers, who succeeded the Templars in the occupation of Garway. In the compilation of John Stillingfleet, in 1433, it is enumerated as "totam terram de lange careway," or Llan Garway. It is not mentioned by Leland or Camden, but by Silas Taylor, who wrote an

account of Herefordshire during the Protectorate, and mentions that there were "stately ruins and religious houses." There was formerly a tradition that the ch. was used as a prison in Border fights, and the belfry for condemned malefactors.

1½ m. further are **Grosmont** village and castle, situated on an eminence on the rt. bank of the Monnow, in a most picturesque position at the foot of the Graig Hill. That it was originally a place of importance is evident from the traces of causeways issuing from the village, and also from a market being still kept up. The **Church**, of Transition Norm., is of unusual size, consisting of a nave, aisles, transept, and chancel, with an octagonal tower and spire. It is cruciform in plan with a central tower. The chancel has been rebuilt on the old lines of its first erection in 1261. In the nave is a gigantic recumbent effigy of a knight, left by the sculptor in an early stage of his work. The celebrated necromancer, John of Kent, is said to have been buried here. Of the **castle**, once the favourite residence of the Dukes of Lancaster, the remains are not very extensive, consisting principally of a gateway, and baronial hall lighted by 5 windows. It is surrounded by a large moat. There is also a beautiful Dec. chimney-shaft of the 14th centy., similar to the one at St. Briavel's Castle (Rte. 3). The fortress was invested by Llewelyn, but was relieved by Henry III., on whose arrival the Welshmen "saved their lives by their legges." Grosmont was one of the chain of forts along the line of the Welsh Marches, between Skenfrith and Oldcastle. 1 m. S. of Grosmont is the **Graig** hill, which, although of no very great height, is a striking object in Monmouthshire landscapes, on account of its isolation; and on the other side of it is **Skenfrith Castle**, a fortress of a trapezium form, surrounded by a curtain wall with towers and a circular keep, which is unconnected with the curtain. The tower, about 40 ft. high and 36 ft. in diameter, stands on a low artificial mound in a low and marshy position. The walls are in good condition but the upper stages are ruined. The Castle was a place of strength before it was adopted by the Norman invaders, who converted it into the S.E. point of the celebrated Monmouthshire Trilateral, Grosmont and Whitecastle being the two others.

"Three castles fayre are in a goodly ground,
Grosmont is one, on hill it builded was;
Skenfrith the next, in valley it is found,
The soyle about for pleasure there doth pepe.
Whit-Castle is the third, of worthie fame,
The country round doth bear Whit-Castle's name;
A statelie seate, a lofty princelie place,
Whose beauty gives the simple soyle some grace."—*Churchyard.*

Skenfrith was a position of great importance so long as the Border warfare lasted, but after the settlement of the country by Edward I. seems to have fallen rapidly into ruin. It belongs to the Duchy of Lancaster. From hence to Monmouth (Rte. 3) it is 7 m., passing on l. **Hilstone House** (Mrs. Hamilton).]

Directly after leaving Pontrilas on rt. is a charcoal factory, where also pyroligneous acid is extracted. On l. is **Kender Church**, recently restored, which has a good wood roof, on the summit of a small elevation.

1 m. distant is **Wormbridge Ch.**, which contains monuments to the Clive family.

32 m. **St. Devereux** Stat. On an eminence on rt. are the scanty remains of **Kilpeck Castle** (of which all that remains is a part of the wall which enclosed the keep, and a part of the old moat) and **Church**, the

latter one of the purest and most interesting specimens of Norm. architecture that is to be found in Great Britain. Mr. Freeman notes Irish influence in the peculiar interlaced patterns of the ornaments of the jambs of the S. door and W. windows. It was founded, together with a priory, now destroyed, by Hugh Fitzwilliam, and in 1134 was made over to St. Peter's Abbey at Gloucester. Its most remarkable features are the chancel, which is in the form of an apex; the corbel table all round the building, which includes upwards of 74 designs of heads, human figures, and beasts; and the doorway, which is decorated with zigzag, nailhead, and star mouldings, and has on the tympanum a representation of the Tree of Life without the figures of animals as supporters. The wall in the immediate neighbourhood is covered with elaborate ornaments. The church was most scrupulously restored in 1848 by the late *Mr. Cottingham.* 1 m. from Kilpeck on the rt. are **Mynde Park** (T. Symons, Esq.), **Bryngwyn,** and **Lyston** (J. Rankin, Esq.), and the long ranges of Saddlebow and Orcop Hills.

On l. 2 m. is **Whitfield** (Rev. Archer Clive), once the residence of Mr. Booth, the eminent conveyancer. The mansion and park have been much improved by the present owner. Here lived for many years in the pursuits of literary culture and the exercise of charity, Mrs. Archer Clive, the author of 'Paul Ferroll.' There are some very remarkable trees, both deciduous and coniferous, the taxodium, silver firs, and Salisburia especially.

35 m. **Tram Inn** Stat., near which on l. is **Allensmore** (E. Pateshall, Esq., M.P.), and the E. Eng. ch., which contains some Norm. work, a little painted glass of the 15th centy., and some good monuments, much injured. Soon afterwards the spires of ♁Hereford rise in the distance, and the railway makes a sudden curve to the rt. by a loop line, which connects it with the Hereford and Gloucester Rly.

[For description of Hereford, see *Handbook for Herefordshire.*]

ROUTE 5.

FROM NEWPORT TO MONMOUTH, BY USK AND RAGLAN.

From Newport to Pontypool Road Junct., see Rte. 4. From the latter station the train proceeds as though to Abergavenny, but turns to the rt. at **Little Mill,** from whence the railway runs to Usk immediately across the Usk Silurian valley of elevation, which like that of Woolhope in Herefordshire (Rte. 3) protrudes in a pear-shaped dome through the Old Red Sandstone. Passing rt. **Cefn Ila** (E. Lister, Esq.) and l. **Beechhill** (G. Relph, Esq.), situated most charmingly on a wooded hill overlooking the river, the tourist reaches

4 m. ♁**Usk,** a pleasant, sleepy little town, exquisitely placed on the l. bank of the river of the same name. Usk is a well-known locality for anglers, the number of salmon that are caught here, in favourable states of the water, being very large. Overhanging the town, above the Abergavenny road, are the ivy-clad ruins and round tower of the **Castle,** which adds very much to the beauty of the villa of F. Macdonnell,

Esq., which stands below it. It formerly belonged to the Clares, and subsequently to Edward IV., Richard III. (who are said, but erroneously, to have been born here, though it was a favourite resort of Richard, Duke of York, their sire), Henry VII., and William Earl of Pembroke, from whose female descendant's son by her husband Thos., Viscount Windsor, it passed by purchase to the Duke of Beaufort. It sustained numerous devastations at the hands of Owain Glyndwr. The ruins consist of a shell, enclosing a court, and some outworks to the W., formed by two walls strengthened at their junction by a round tower. At the end of the S. wall is a grand pointed gateway grooved for a portcullis; and an extant chamber of the castle shows an arched window, and a fireplace with a more recent chimney. The **Church** is a large embattled structure, formerly attached to a priory of Benedictine nuns, and contains, affixed to a screen, a brass plate with an inscription, on the reading of which antiquaries are divided.* Usk was doubtless a place of some antiquity, and is supposed to have been the Burrium of the Romans; there are besides an unusual number of camps and ancient fortifications in the vicinity—the chief of which are **Craig-y-gaercyd,** about 2 m. to the N.W., close to Llancayo; **Court-y-gaer,** near Wolves Newton; **Gaer-fawr,** between Usk and Chepstow (Rte. 1); **Campwood,** 2½ m. on the Raglan road, and **Coed-y-Bunedd** upon the hill above Clytha. Near the gaol also have been found Roman querns and remains of pottery. [About ½ m. from the town, on the Caerleon road, is **Llanbaddock** ch. 3 m. rt. is **Llangibby Castle** (William Addams Williams, Esq.), said to have been built by Inigo Jones, and the ancient seat of the Williams family. On an overgrown hill at the back of the house are the scanty remains of the old **Castle,** of which the outer walls can be traced. It was formerly called Traygrug, and was possessed by the Earls of Gloucester, of the line of Clare. **Tredonnock** church (4½ m.) contains a Roman inscription to a soldier of the 2nd Augustan legion. On the opposite hill is **Bertholey,** a seat of the Batemans.] Over the Usk is a picturesque stone bridge of five arches, from which there is a delightful prospect of the hills towards Abergavenny. The Usk and Olwey are famous for the good fishing they afford.

From Usk the railway continues its course up the valley of the Olwey, through a pleasant undulating country, to **Llandenny** Stat., 7 m., and passes l. **Cefntilla,** the estate and residence of Lord Raglan. This house was the headquarters of Fairfax during the siege of Raglan Castle.

9½ m. is **Raglan** Stat., at which the visitor to ✠ **Raglan Castle** must quit the train. In the centre of the village is the **Church,** an uninteresting building of debased Perp. Inside are the monuments of the Somerset family, comprising those of William, 3rd Earl of Worcester, 1589; Edward, 4th Earl, 1628; and Edward, 2nd Marquis of Worcester, author of 'The Century of Inventions,' 1667.

About ½ m. from the village are the ruins of the **Castle,** standing upon rising ground, yet well-nigh hidden within a grove of venerable trees. The entrance gateway is placed between two angular towers, remarkable for their bold triple machicolations, resembling those of an Italian castle. The present Raglan was not begun before the reign of Henry V.: it therefore exhibits one of the latest forms of the feudal castle passing

* For copy and probable translation, see Haines, 'Mon. Brasses,' p. 243.

into the modern style of fortification. Its grey towers, planted with the angles pointed outwards, are an approximation to the bastions of modern fortresses. On the l. of the entrance rises the hexagonal keep, a noble and lofty pile of masonry, called the "Yellow Tower of Gwent." It stands outside the main castle on the south side, and is considered to be older than the rest of the building. Each of its six sides measures 32 ft., the walls of red sandstone being 10 ft. thick and five stories high. It stands within an outer circuit of low curtains and bastions within a broad moat. One side of it was blown up by order of Cromwell, but the staircase remains, and from the top a good view can be gained of the surrounding country, including on the E. the Kymin Hill above Monmouth, and on the W. the Blorenge, Seyrrid, and Sugar Loaf beyond Abergavenny. It was within the moat that the ingenious author of 'The Century of Inventions,' Lord Herbert, erected some curious waterworks, which on one occasion, at the beginning of the Long Parliament, were made to play upon certain troublesome Puritans who had entered the castle to search for arms—my lord being a papist—"by which, when the several engines and wheels were set going, much quantity of water, through the hollow conveyances of aqueducts, was to be let down from the top of the high tower." It is not improbable that this was "the stupendous water-commanding engine" which formed the last article in the 'Century of Inventions,' and which contained, in fact, the germ of the steam-engine. After the Restoration such an engine was erected by the Marquis at Vauxhall, where it was seen by Cosmo de Medici in 1669.

In 1663 the marquis obtained a patent for 99 years for this engine; but if the Raglan engine, erected "at the beginning of the Long Parliament," was really the same, this gives a much earlier date to the invention.—See 'Apophthegms of the Marquis of Worcester.'

The drawbridge which connected this tower with the rest of the castle has been destroyed and replaced by a bridge of planks. This keep-tower is supposed to have been added by the first marquis in the reign of James I. or Charles I. The rest of the edifice was probably built by Sir William ap Thomas and his son, the friend and favourite of Edward IV., created by him Earl of Pembroke, the first of that title of the name of Herbert, from whose family it passed to the Beauforts by the marriage of Sir Charles Somerset, their ancestor, with Elizabeth, granddaughter of the Earl of Pembroke.

The entrance-gateway, before described, leads into the first court, now carpeted with greensward and surrounded by ivy-mantled walls and towers. At the further end, opposite the gate, was the kitchen, occupying the lower story of a pentagonal tower, and provided with a wide fireplace. Below it is a sort of cellar, called the Wet Larder. On the rt. is the breach made by the batteries of Sir Thomas Fairfax, from one of which 4, and from another 2 mortars, carrying grenades, opened upon the walls at a distance of 60 yds. The memorable siege of 1646 by the forces of the Parliament deserves a more detailed notice. It was provoked, no doubt, by the determined "malignancy" of the loyal old marquis, who had twice given an asylum here to Charles I. after Naseby, in 1645, had entertained Prince Charles subsequently, and was a thorn in the sides of the Parliamentarians in Monmouthshire. It was commenced in the spring of that year by Sir Trevor Williams and Col. Morgan, but 2 months later was taken in hand more warmly and skilfully by Fairfax, who, having

"finished his work over the kingdom except this castle," marched from Bath in August with all the material necessary for "reducing the garrison to the obedience of the Parliament." The veteran Marquis of Worcester, then in his 84th year, had already made enormous sacrifices of men and money in the cause of his unfortunate master, and had equipped and maintained at his own charge an army of 1500 foot and 500 horse, though to little profit, since they were routed without striking a blow before Gloucester. He now, with his daughter-in-law the Countess of Glamorgan, his 6th son, Lord Charles, his chaplain Dr. Bailey, and a few trusty friends, underwent all the privations of a siege, and with a garrison amounting at first to 800 men, boldly determined to resist to the last the attack of the enemy. For above 2 months the defence was maintained with unflinching boldness and determination. Several summonses to surrender were firmly refused. To one of these, made by Col. Morgan, and backed by what he would have had the marquis believe was "a true copy of his Majesty's warrant to several garrisons to yield upon terms," he replied,

"Truly, sir, it is not in the power of man to make me think so unworthily of his Majesty: that to one, in the opinion of the world, that hath given himself and family so great a demonstration and testimony of his and their faith and fidelity towards them, that he would not please so much as to name his name or Raglan, I entreat you give me leave to suspend my belief. And for your second summons, it makes it too evident that it is desired that I should die under a hedge, like a beggar, having no home left to put my head into, nor means left to find me bread. Wherefore, to give you answer, I make choice (if it so please God) rather to die nobly than to live with infamy."

At length the near approach of the covered ways of the enemy's engineers, now acting under the vigorous orders of Fairfax, the effects of the cannonade, the dimunition of the garrison from 800 to about 400, and the dearth of powder and provisions, compelled the marquis to listen to terms. The parliamentary general granted favourable conditions, and on the 19th of August the garrison marched out with flying colours, after a siege of 10 weeks. The Parliament, however, refused to ratify the articles granted by Fairfax. The aged marquis, already on the verge of the grave, was despatched to London and committed to the custody of Black Rod. He survived his misfortunes less than half a year; and Raglan, shattered by the siege and further demolished by its captors, has never again been made habitable; though after the Restoration the estates, shorn of their beauty, and diminished in value, were recovered by the family. The chief cause of its destruction, however, was the depredations of the peasantry, who for years resorted to the castle as to a quarry, and built out of it their houses, barns, and pigsties, until when the Duke of Beaufort interfered to preserve what remained of it, 23 staircases had thus been demolished or removed.

The ruins are now under the custodianship of Raglan Somerset, Esq., the warder, who is most zealous, not only in keeping it in order, but in ferreting out and restoring interesting little details of architecture.

On the l. hand, or W. side of the first court, stands the great hall, in the Tudor style, still distinguished by its large Oriel window, but within, reduced to bare walls, with remains of a large fireplace on one side and the arms and motto of the first marquis and last occupier of this castle ("Mutare vel timere sperno"), now nearly effaced. The buttery-hatches, by which provision-dishes were conveyed to the banqueting-board, still

remain in the end wall. Side by side with the hall is the chapel, almost entirely stripped, except two caryatid figures, perhaps part of a chimney-piece. These two apartments divided the 1st court from the 2nd or Fountain Court, so called from a fountain, adorned with a statue of a white horse, of which no traces remain. On one side of it is the grand staircase and entrance (in the style of James I. or Charles I.) which led to the state apartments. Those in the N.E. angle of the court, still marked by "King Charles's window," were occupied by the unfortunate Charles I. during his two visits here, when a wanderer after Naseby in June and Sept. 1645. On his 2nd visit he received the news of the base surrender of Bristol by his nephew Rupert, the final blow to the royal cause. The long series of services of the house of Somerset to the cause and person of Charles were but ill-requited by his son. The old marquis had expended nearly 60,000*l.* in equipping armies for the king to an extent which scarce any other nobleman in the country could have accomplished; he had seen his castle demolished by his enemies, his estates and revenues, to the amount of 20,000*l.* a year, confiscated, and he died a prisoner. His son, and successor in the marquisate, Edward Somerset, the author of the 'Century of Inventions,' and the first person who had a vision of the great discovery of the steam-engine, was born at Raglan, and after many years spent in the service of Charles I. accompanied his successor in his exile, and, by undertaking for him a dangerous mission to England, incurred a long imprisonment in the tower. At the Restoration, he received back his estates in an impoverished condition, but was compelled to surrender an extraordinary patent for a dukedom granted to him "in prejudice of the peers," and never could obtain the smallest indemnification for the sums which he and his father had expended in the cause of the Stuarts. Under a considerable portion of the buildings, on the W. side of the Fountain Court, run subterranean chambers, which romantic tourists regard as dungeons, but they are nothing more than cellars, sewers, or sinks. A gate-tower leads out of this second court upon the terrace, pointed out as Charles I.'s Walk, and commanding a pretty prospect. Here were pleasure-grounds and fish-ponds; and it is not improbable that a considerable lake, formed by damming up the rivulets, contributed to the strength of the castle on this side. The ancient deer-parks are now enclosed.

Raglan Castle is a famous locality for picnic parties, many of which come from a very long distance; it is also the head-quarters of the Raglan Archers (who meet here 3 times a year, and have a very comfortable permanent tent), as well as a favourite rendezvous of archæologists.

13 m. **Dingestow** Stat. On rt., ¾ m., is **Dingestow** Church, close to which are slight traces of the castle, a former residence of the Earl of Pembroke in the 15th centy. **Dingestow Court** (S. R. Bosanquet, Esq.) is an old mansion of the date of 1623, enlarged and refronted in stone in Elizabethan style about 1846. It was once the residence of the Jones family and afterwards of the Duberlys.

About 1 m. to the back is **Treowain**, once the chief seat of the Herberts of Llanarth, dating from about the 14th centy.; but the present house was built (it is said by Inigo Jones) early in the 17th centy. The front has been lowered a story, and a continuous roof substituted for the gables. It has a beautiful porch, over the entrance of which is a

shield of the Herbert family, with 9 quarterings. In Henry VI.'s reign it was held by the King, and called the Manor of Wonewastow. It then belonged to a family named Le Gallys, or Wallis, from whom it came into that of Huntley by marriage, and has since descended to the Herberts.

The porch seems to be an afterthought. The windows are square-headed and divided by mullions and transoms. Above the doorway is a compartment decorated with caryatid figures and Ionic columns, in the centre of which are the quarterings of Jones of Treowen, Corbet, Milo Fitzwalter, Bernard Newmarch, Ap Adam of Beverstone, Ynywr y Gwent, Huntley, Hastings, and Wallis. In the interior is a carved and panelled oak screen, and a good staircase of solid oak.

On l. 14½ m. is **Wonastow** Church and *Court*, the latter, an old manor-house of the 16th centy., garrisoned for the King in the Civil Wars, but surrendered by treachery (— Pritchard, Esq.).

15 m. **Mitchel Troy.** The **Church**, which is on the rt., is Dec., and with the old yews, has a picturesque appearance. The churchyard, which is entered by a lich-gate, contains a slender cross of great antiquity, carved with mystic characters. In the wall of the S.W. angle of the tower is an inscription supposed to refer to the founders, and in the interior a handsome Communion-table, brought from Italy.

Crossing the little river Trothy, on rt. is **Troy House**, the seat of the Duke of Beaufort, a respectable mansion with a huge roof, and an interior remarkable for its spacious apartments, costly paintings, and antiquarian curiosities, placed under the shelter of a hill, and by the side of the Trothy, from whence it derives its name. It is said to have been built by Inigo Jones, and contains some family portraits of the Herberts, Somersets, &c., including Lord Herbert of Cherbury when a boy, and the Marquis of Worcester, the defender of Raglan; also two old oak chimney-pieces, one curiously carved with scriptural subjects, and of the earlier half of the 17th cent. A cradle, said to be that in which Henry V. of Monmouth was rocked, and a suit of armour worn by him at Agincourt, were at one time shown; but they seem to be of a more recent date. There is a good specimen of Elizabethan ceiling and cornice in one room, and a panelling of the time of James I. in the adjoining one. A letter is extant written by Charles I. to the contemporary owner of Troy, in which he likens that residence to its namesake on the Simois, making mention of its diverse attractions, especially its fruit-gardens.

On a hill overlooking the rly. on l. is **Gibraltar** (A. Rolls, Esq.).

16 m. **Monmouth** Stat. (Rte. 3), 1 m. from the town. The line is now extended to Ross, and, according to the original intention, to Coleford and the Forest of Dean.

ROUTE 6.

FROM NEWPORT TO BRYNMAWR, BY PONTYPOOL AND BLAENAFON.

For the rly. between **Pontypool** and **Pontrhydyrun** Stat., by the Monmouthshire line, see Rte. 4.

Soon after passing the latter stat., the Great Western line to Abergavenny and Hereford is given off to Pontypool Road, the Blaenafon rly. keeping to the l. up the valley to the busy iron town of

Pontypool, 8½ m., which in point of situation yields to none in Wales. Few towns have so improved in appearance of late years, a fact probably owing to the long personal residence of the late Lord-Lieut. of the county, C. Hanbury Leigh, Esq., at Pontypool Park, who, with a noble munificence, presented the inhabitants with a very handsome *Town-hall*, of Italian architecture. The streets and shops have in consequence much improved, though the former still retain a good deal of the characteristic iron-work dirt about them. Iron and tin-works employ a large population, and Pontypool has the credit of being one of the very earliest seats of the iron trade, which was commenced in 1560 by an ancestor of the Lord-Lieut., one Rich. Hanbury, a goldsmith of the city of London. As coal was not then used in the smelting of iron, he employed charcoal, to obtain which many hill-sides, now bare, were despoiled of their timber. It is said that, at the time of Mr. Hanbury's undertaking, the whole of the mineral property was let for 9*s.* 4*d.* This town also attained celebrity in the reign of Charles II. for the manufacture of japan ware by Mr. Allgood, which obtained a great sale under the name of Pontypool ware. "Hardware from Birmingham and Pont-y-pool" is spoken of in the works of a modern poet; and to this old staple of the town may be referred the proverb, "As round as a Pontypool waiter." This trade, however, has long been extinct. The **Park** (T. Capel Hanbury, Esq.) is pleasantly situated on the rt. of the town, from which it is separated by the river, and the beauty of the lawns and woods which surround it on every side proves that iron-work smoke is by no means fatal to vegetation. The house contains some family portraits. It is a charming walk, up the hill-side, skirting the park to the **Folly,** on one of the slopes of the Blorenge which commands a magnificent view, extending over the Bristol Channel into Somersetshire and Devonshire. Other beautiful excursions may be made to **Crumlin,** 5 m. (Rte. 10), or along the ridges of the Mynydd Maen to **Twm Barlwm** mountain, which overhangs Risca, and is believed to have been the site of an early British court of assize.

The visitor should also ascend the wooded hill to the rt. (crossing the Afon) to **Trevethin** ch., the mother ch. of the district, restored in 1847. It contains a baptistery for adults; and in the ch.-yd. are some rather quaint epitaphs. The view is exquisite. The walk may be extended to any length on the brow of the hill, and a descent may be made upon Abergavenny by Llanover or Llanellen villages. The distance would be about 7 or 8 m.

9½ m. **Pontnewynydd** Stat. On l. are iron forges, which have been at a stand for some years. It is a charming walk up the valley of Cwmddu on the l.—a deep sequestered dingle that runs far into the heart of the Llanhilleth mountain.

10½ m. **Abersychan** Stat. Here are the large *British* works, belonging to the Ebbw Vale Company, which employ a large number of people. Although in a naturally splendid situation, Abersychan is a dirty place, and the mountains of slag quite alter the face of the country. Still on the l., at the head of the streamlets of the Sychan and the Ffrwd, are beautiful little glens, almost shut in by the hills, and well

worthy of being explored by the lover of mountain scenery.

On the high ground above Abersychan are the Golynos iron-works, and the Varteg coal-works.

12½ m. **Cwmavon** Stat. The valley is very narrow here, only affording room for the river and the rly.

15 m. **Blaenafon** Stat., the terminus of this portion of the Monmouthshire Company's lines, known as the Eastern valleys. Blaenafon has now become a very large place, dependent entirely on the iron and steel works, which are carried on on a most extensive scale. The greater part of the town and the old furnaces are on the E. bank of the Afon, but the most recent and important part of the establishment is on the W. side, where large mills and furnaces have been erected. The Blaenafon iron has always been in good reputation in the market, from its capability of bearing strain. A road of 6 m. runs over the Blorenge to Abergavenny, passing Garndyris, where the old mills and forges were once carried on. From hence there is one of the finest views in South Wales, looking up the Vale of Usk to Crickhowell and Llangynider. But it is a still wilder walk by the mountain road to Llanellen, passing at the head of **Cwm Llanellen,** so sequestered and isolated that it might be in the wilds of Scotland, instead of close to a great manufacturing district.

From Blaenafon new works, the London and North-Western Railway Company have a branch line running over the mountain by **Garnerw,** and joining the Merthyr and Tredegar line at Brynmawr Junct. (Rte. 11).

ROUTE 7.

FROM NEWPORT TO NANTYGLO AND EBBWVALE, BY CRUMLIN AND ABERBEEG.

The great iron districts at the head and in the valleys of the Ebbw Fawr and Fach (Great and Little Ebbw), are placed in communication with the shipping port of Newport by the Western Valley lines of the Monmouthshire Company. They are seldom visited by tourists, who do not know what they miss ; and although almost every step of the way is marked by collieries, iron-works, tin-plate forges, coke-ovens or manufactories of some kind, nothing can rob the mountains of their rugged sides, or of the beautiful foliage that dresses them, and descends with trailing branches to the very banks of the river.

Soon after quitting Newport, and getting on l. a distant peep of the docks and the Somersetshire coast near Clevedon, the line runs through **Tredegar Park,** the seat of Lord Tredegar (Rte. 1), a good view being obtained of the house, which was built by Inigo Jones. The Park Mile, as it is called, yields his lordship a handsome sum annually for tolls. The Park is beautifully wooded, and there are many charming little bits of river and woodland scenery.

3 m. Bassaleg Junct., where the Rhymney and Brecon line (Rte. 9) is given off, placing Newport in connection with the Mid-Wales system. **Bassaleg Ch.** is a venerable old building on l. with an embattled tower. There are some ancient earthworks on the hill above, and

the site of **Rogerston Castle,** very near the line, and the tin-plate works of the same name. To the rt., within the precincts of Tredegar Park, is the old camp of **Maes-y-gaer,** worth a visit from the antiquary.

4 m. **Tydee** Stat. There are tin-plate works on the l. Passing l. **Pontymister** tin-plate works, the train reaches

6½ m. Risca Junct., where the Tredegar and Sirhowy Rly., a line of 15 m., through a valley rich in minerals (Rte. 8), is given off, placing Newport in connection with the London and North-Western system at Nantybwch. Close to the rly. on l. is a pretty Dec. ch. Risca is a thriving place, dependent on tin-plate and chemical works, quarries, and collieries. Risca stands on the N.E. bank of the Ebbw, near its confluence with the Sirhowy, under the S. extremity of Mynydd Maen. Soon after leaving the stat. the traveller passes on l. the **Risca Collieries,** one of them being the ill-fated pit at which the lamentable explosion took place in 1860, when 142 colliers were killed from the combined effects of fire and choke-damp. The ventilating apparatus here is very fine, but unfortunately these pits require it all, the coal being of a particularly fiery character.

There is a charming view up the Sirhowy valley on l. as the train approaches 8 m. **Cross Keys** Stat.

9 m. **Chapel Bridge** Stat. is overshadowed on l. by the Mynyddys-llwyn Mt., and on rt. by **Twm Barlwm,** a mound or tumulus surrounded by a ditch, and a favourite excursion and picnic locality from Pontypool and Newport.

10½ m. **Abercarn** Stat. On rt. are the Abercarn tin-plate works and the extensive collieries of the Ebbw-vale Company, which are of great depth and very complete in all their arrangements. In the woods to rt. is **Abercarn House,** a seat of Lady Llanover. The valley here takes a sudden curve, from which the Crumlin bridge appears as though it were hanging across like a cobweb, so delicate and fairy-like do its lines contrast with the dark hills beyond.

11½ m. **New Bridge** Stat. A road on l. leads over the hill to Pontllanfraith, Blackwood, and Hengoed.

12½ m. ♁ **Crumlin** Stat. The Western Valleys line here passes under the most lofty railway bridge in England, over which the Great Western Rly. is carried to Aberdare and Swansea from Pontypool Road (Rte. 10). The village of Crumlin is rapidly increasing, owing to the large engineering works of the Messrs. Kennard, where were made Crumlin Bridge and many other large rly. bridges, particularly in Spain. On l. is **Crumlin Hall,** the modern residence of Martin Kennard, Esq.

From Crumlin, after viewing this great achievement of engineering skill from below, the tourist may join the Great Western, although he must bear in mind that there is a very steep hill to climb to the stat. There is a fair hotel for refreshments on the Western valleys.

Beautifully wild walks are to be had in all directions, and particularly up to the **Llanhilleth Mt.,** where is the solitary little ch. of Llanhilleth. It is a very fatiguing walk to the summit, but the view will well repay, particularly to the N. and W., looking towards the Breconshire Beacons.

From Crumlin the valley speedily narrows, and the rly. turns and twists with rather perilous frequency.

15 m. Aberbeeg Junct., where the

two valleys of the Ebbw meet, and near which the Beeg, which gives the place its name, hurries into the Ebbw — a most charming bit of scenery. Ascend the glen of the *Beeg* to the mountain of Cefn yr Arrail, a lovely walk. There is a colliery at Aberbeeg, sunk for a considerable depth to the Tillery vein of coal.

[To Nantyglo, which gets its name from a stream here joining the Ebbw, the train ascends the valley of the Ebbw Fach (Little Ebbw) on rt. to 17 m. **Abertillery** Stat. Here is a populous village, dependent on the collieries and the tin-plate works. On rt., at the entrance of the Tillery Valley, are the ch. and schools. In the Tillery Valley, a sequestered and pretty place, is another population, employed in the collieries of the Tillery and the South Wales Colliery Companies.

20 m. **Blaina** Stat. There are large and important ironworks here, which suffered sadly in the panic of 1866, and were only resumed in 1869. The **Church,** which superseded the old one, burnt down in 1854, is a fine Norm. building, from designs by *Norton.* It contains an apsidal chancel, which is rather too dark and heavy for the interior.

Passing rt. Coldbrook Vale works, an appendage of Blaina, the traveller reaches

21 m. **Nantyglo** Stat. Here are the large iron-works of Messrs. J. and C. Bailey, from which immense fortunes have been made by that family. On l. is **Nantyglo House** (Crawshay Bailey, Esq.).]

To Ebbwvale the rly. ascends the l. valley, or that of the Ebbw Fawr. It resembles the other in all its features, except that it is less spoilt by works and habitations, and presents in some spots the most charming little glimpses of scenery. The vale is narrower, and the river more impetuous, better wooded, and decidedly more picturesque.

18 m. **Cwm** Stat. On l. is the residence of A. Darby, Esq., manager of the Ebbw Vale works, in a beautiful situation, were it further from the smoke.

19 m. **Victoria** Stat. The Victoria works are a portion of the Ebbw Vale Company's works, which give employment to a large population in this valley. The works embrace every improvement of modern times, including the Bessemer steel process. A very handsome new ch. was built some years ago, and consecrated in 1869. There are also several large and commodious schools, and a good literary institute, where the geologist will find a collection of coal ferns and fossil fish and shells from the neighbourhood. The Abercarne Pit, which belongs to this Company, was the scene of a dreadful explosion in 1878, when upwards of 260 lives were lost.

The terminus is reached at **Ebbw Vale** Stat., 21 m. The London and North-Western Company have a short branch from here to Beaufort Junct., so that the tourist, after inspecting the Western Valley and the Ebbw Vale, can either go to Tredegar to sleep (Rte. 8), or by train to Abergavenny.

ROUTE 8.

FROM NEWPORT TO NANTYBWCH, BY TREDEGAR.

(Sirhowy Railway.)

By this little line Newport is placed in connection with the collieries and works of the Sirhowy Valley, and with the London and North-Western system at Nantybwch Junction.

It leaves **Newport** by the Western Valleys Stat., and uses the same line to Risca (Rte. 7), there crossing the Ebbw (which runs with the Sirhowy River into the Usk below Newport) by a long viaduct. It then passes the Risca collieries, belonging to Mr. Rhodes (Rte. 7), and turns to the l. up the valley of the Sirhowy, one of the least known and the least frequented of all these mountain glens. There are so comparatively few collieries in it, that its picturesque beauties are scarcely injured.

9 m. **Nine Mile Point** Stat. On rt. is the Mynyddysllwyn mountain, and on its summit the weather-beaten and isolated ch. of **Mynyddysllwyn,** which, notwithstanding its singular and out-of-the-way position, is the mother-ch. of a very large district — built in the days when population was scattered and consisted only of a few farmers and shepherds. Now, ironworks, forges, collieries, and railway stations are thick on the ground, and Mynyddysllwyn remains like an ancient watchtower, recalling the past.

13 m. TREDEGAR JUNCT., whence passengers by the Sirhowy Rly. can travel E. or W. by the Great Western.

The upper part of the valley is more populous, and contains a great number of valuable collieries, principally supplying red-ash house-coal to Newport and for shipment to Ireland.

14½ m. **Blackwood** Stat., a large and straggling village entirely inhabited by colliers. A little higher up, on the opposite side of the valley, is **Penmaen Ch.,** a pretty modern building, in the building of which the late Sir Thomas Phillips was chiefly instrumental. His school, established for the children of his collieries, is at **Court-y-bella,** a little higher up the valley.

16 m. **Argoed** Stat. On the mountain to the l. stands **Bedwellty** Church, the mother-church of large districts, which have risen up with their teeming populations within the last half-century. It has a square tower, low pointed arches, and short, massive columns. Bedwellty Place, lower down the vale, once a seat of the Morgans, and Penllwyn House, on the W. bank of the Sirhowy, have been long converted into farm-houses. The thickly inhabited iron-work towns of Tredegar, Ebbw Vale, and Sirhowy, but too thinly provided with church-accommodation, are all within the parish of Bedwellty, which extends for 7 or 8 m. in each direction. Documents were discovered in the cathedral of Llandaff, to the effect that one sermon a month should be allowed to be preached in the ch. of Bedwellty on the application of the inhabitants of the parish.

The valley now narrows again, the river running at a considerable depth below the rly.; on rt. is the long wooded range of **Cefn Mammoel,** separating the Sirhowy from the

Ebbw valley. From the summit magnificent views of the surrounding country can be obtained. To the N. the long, high table-land of millstone grit and limestone, with the old red sandstone mountains of the Vale of Usk beyond, Pen-carreg-calch and the Cader, the Beacons overtopping all, on the left, and the Scyrrid, Sugar-loaf, and between them the far-distant Malverns on the rt.; to the S. the ridges in the neighbourhood of Newport and Caerphilly, the blue Channel and the faint hills of Somersetshire, form a panorama at once varied and extensive.

"In the direction of Merthyr, wave after wave of mountains rises up to the eye of the spectator, separated only by the alternations of light and shade, and the heavy masses of smoke which rise from the valleys, telling of the tens of thousands who are gaining their livelihood in the bowels of the earth. It is a grand and beautiful contrast, and to a lover of nature there is a peculiar pleasure in being, as it were, isolated from the world below, and reflecting on the vast changes that these old hills have undergone. Here is a cairn, the restingplace, perhaps, of some old British warrior; there is a steam-engine, every beat of which brings civilization nearer and widens the distance between the present and the past. It is even in man's recollection when these valleys, now so crowded with human life and industry, were untrodden, save by the shepherd, or by people who, as Archdeacon Coxe expresses it in his Travels, 'ventured into the wilds of Monmouthshire for the purpose of searching for grouse.'" —*G.P.B.*

22 m. ⚷ **Tredegar** Stat. Here are the large ironworks which formerly belonged to the Homfrays, by one of whom they were commenced in 1800, and till lately to Mr. Rowland Fothergill of Hensol, giving employment to a large and growing population. With the exception of Nantyglo, Tredegar certainly bears the palm of being the dirtiest and most unpleasant town in all the iron districts of South Wales. The streets are intersected by tramroads, along which many little skeleton engines, dangerous alike to life and traffic, are perpetually bringing coal to the furnaces. In the market-place is a tall, ugly clock-tower, the gift of a former manager.

Higher up the valley is, 23 m., **Sirhowy** Stat., and the *Sirhowy Works*, the property of the Ebbw Vale Co. Except for the size of the furnaces, there is nothing remarkable about them. The short piece of line beyond Nantybwch, completes the communication between Abergavenny (London and North-Western Rly.) and Cardiff, and by certain trains of the London and North-Western Rly. there are through carriages from Liverpool to Cardiff.

24½ m. Nantybwch Junct. with the London and North-Western, by which the traveller can proceed to Abergavenny or for Merthyr to Dowlais *Top* stat., whence omnibuses leave the station for Merthyr daily.

From Dowlais *Top* it is a walk of 5 m. to Merthyr.

ROUTE 9.

FROM NEWPORT TO BRECON, BY BARGOED, DOWLAIS, AND TALYBONT

By the Western Valleys rly. Newport has direct communication with Merthyr, Brecon, and the Mid-Wales system. The scenery is in places of a very high character, and

the tourist who wishes to see the various features of the scenery of the South Wales coal basin cannot do better than travel by it.

The line quits Newport by the Western Valleys stat., using the same rails to

3 m. Bassaleg Junct. (Rte. 7), when the Brecon and Merthyr, Rhymney and Newport Rly. turns to the l. up a very picturesque gorge, passing 4½ m. **Rhiwderin** and **Church Road** Stat. to 8 m. **Machen** Stat. Here are the tinplate works of the Messrs. Woodruffe. On rt. is the **Machen Mountain**, a fine wooded mass of hill separating this valley from that of Sirhowy. **Ruperra Castle** (Hon. F. Morgan), (Rte. 1.) is about 2 m. to the S., within the county of Glamorgan.

11 m. **Bedwas** Stat. Here the rly. turns sharp round to the rt., and ascends the Rhymney valley, leaving on l. the distant towers of **Caerphilly Castle**, which are a fine and prominent object in the landscape (Rte. 14). On the opposite side of the valley, running parallel, is the *Rhymney Rly.*, between Cardiff and the Rhymney ironworks.

Passing l. **Ystrad** Ch. and Court, the pretty seat of Mrs. Thomas, the tourist arrives at

15½ m. **Maes-y-cymmer** Stat., where the Great Western Rly. crosses the line by a very lofty viaduct to **Hengoed**, on the other side of the valley.

17½ m. **Pengam** Stat. On the high ground rt. is an old farmhouse called *Plas Bedwellty*, the former residence of a collateral branch of the Morgans of Caerleon (see Rte. 8. *supra*). On l. is a handsome school erected from the funds of a charity left to the parish of Gelligaer. The scenery here is of a charming description, notwithstanding the intrusion of several collieries, which, however, do not interfere as much as might be expected. The quaint old bridge—the river, now rushing over its rocky bed and now forming clear deep pools—the woods feathering down to the water's edge—and the overlapping of the hills as the valley winds, present a picture, over which the artist might well be tempted to linger.

On the high ground to the l., on Mynydd Gelligaer is the white tower of **Gelligaer Church** (restored), which overlooks many a ridge of hill and many a narrow valley. As the name implies, this was the site of a Roman encampment, and there are traces of a Roman road leading to the village, besides several monumental stones on the Gelligaer mountain.

[From Pengam a branch line is given off, keeping the same side of the valley to 21 m. **Whiterose** Stat., where is a considerable population employed in the new Tredegar steam coal pits.

24 m. **Rhymney Works.** It must be mentioned that this is not a convenient line to travel to Rhymney, as the terminus is situated at the Maerdy, nearly 1½ m. (of the very dirtiest walking) from the town.]

The main line crosses the Rhymney river, and the Rhymney rly. at

19 m. Bargoed Junct., whence it ascends the beautiful and sequestered valley of the Bargoed Rhymney river, teeming with mineral produce in the shape of steam coal. *Bedwellty Church* (Rte. 8) is on the hill to the rt. of Bargoed, overlooking the Rhymney and the Sirhowy valleys.

21 m. **Darran** Stat., soon after which the rly. approaches the head of the valley, and emerges on the wild and desolate table-land of the Waun Hill at

27 m. **Vochriew** Stat. Bleak and savage as this district is, a large population has been gathered together, who are employed in the Vochriew collieries of the Dowlais Company. A residence here in the winter season must be trying, as the height is at least 1300 ft. above the sea.

Near 27 m. **Dowlais Top** Stat., the turnpike road, the old coaching road between Abergavenny and Swansea is crossed.

[28½ m., at Pant Junct., a short branch on l. runs to *Dowlais* Stat.

Dowlais is one of the largest steel-making establishments in Great Britain. The aspect of the works at night is a sight not to be forgotten, and the beacons are lighted up with their glow for miles round. They were brought to their present perfection by the energy and perseverance of the late Sir John Guest, who ranked as one of the foremost iron-masters in the country. Under Sir John's care the sanitary and social condition of the people, who number at this work about 20,000, was considerably raised, after having been for many years in a state of neglect and degradation horrible to contemplate. A handsome building on the rt. has been erected to his memory, to serve as a library and institution. Close to the furnaces, and almost touching them, is **Dowlais House,** the residence of G. T. Clark, Esq., the managing trustee, who is well known to archæologists as a distinguished antiquary; and is deserving of all honour for the vigorous part he has taken in the local government of Dowlais and Merthyr. The works are now about to be removed to Cardiff—an operation which is expected to occupy about 10 years and to cost about 3,000,000*l.* For a further account of the works and their history the reader is referred to the Introduction.

From Dowlais a long hill of 2 m. leads to Merthyr (Rte. 15).]

At Pant a magnificent view breaks upon the tourist. Instead of the wild and dreary hill-side, marked only by grey boulders or tracts of bog, he is suddenly brought to the verge of a precipice, on which the rly. runs, overlooking the valley of the Taff. To the S. are the rugged escarpments of the Morlais limestone quarries, crowned on the summit of the hill by Castell Morlais, while the river runs in a deep gorge below, almost hidden by trees or projecting rocks.

34 m. Pont-sticill Junct. [The traveller should go by the branch rly. which runs hence to Merthyr, for the purpose of seeing the bold scenery on the way, and the fine railway works which have placed Merthyr in direct communication with Mid and North Wales. From Pont-sticill, where a bridge of one arch crosses the lesser Taff, and where the scenery is of a charming character, the line enters a deep limestone gorge, on the opposite side of which is the solitary and picturesque little restored ch. of **Vaynor.** Close to the village is a tumulus, and there are other cairns in the parish.

1½ m. **Pontsarn** Stat., below which is the romantic little fall of *Pontsarn.* The river, nearly concealed by large masses of rock, falls into a deep basin, which is crossed, over a chasm of 30 ft. deep, by a rustic bridge, erected over two rocks of equal height, having no more than 18 ft. between. Above it towers the lofty limestone cliff, at the top of which **Morlais Castle** is perched, appearing at a much greater height than it really is. The remains are extremely dilapidated, consisting of some portions of ruined towers, in

one of which a chamber was cleared out in 1846. It is about 90 ft. in circumference, having a groined roof, supported by a central pillar. The situation is grand and commanding, and the view to the N., up the valley of the lesser Taff to the Beacons, is very fine. It is thought by some antiquaries that Morlais was never completed: at all events it appears to have been built by the Normans as part of a system of border castles, intended to overawe the turbulent hill-people or to cut off the retreat of foraging parties from the north, in the same way as Castell Coch and others were constructed further south. Local tradition ascribes it to Ivor Bach, a celebrated chieftain in the 12th centy., but it is more likely that it was built to protect the country against his aggressions. In the reign of Edward I. the castle was the scene of a remarkable legal dispute between the Crown and the lords of the Welsh Marches. It was for long the property of the family of Lewis of the Van, who were the descendants of Ivor Bach, and eventually passed by marriage to the Windsor family, to whom it now belongs. In the lime-rock a little above Pontsarn is a cave, or hollow, called Ogof Rhyd Sych, or Dry Ford Cavern.

The rly. now winds along the glen, having on l. the woods of Cyfarthfa (W. Crawshay, Esq.) and the ironworks to

2 m. **Cefn** Stat. Cefn, or Cefn-Coed-y-Cymmer ("the ridge of the wood of the confluence," alluding to the junction here of the two streams —the Taff fechan and Taff fawr) is a dirty suburb of Merthyr, although not in the same county, the border between Brecon and Glamorgan being passed immediately beyond. A little below, the united streams rush over a shelf of rock towards Cyfarthfa. A long and handsome viaduct now carries the rly. across the Taff into the Vale of Neath station at ♆ **Merthyr.** (Rte. 15.]

From Pont-Sticill Junct. the main line ascends the beautiful valley of the Taff Vechan to

32 m. **Dolygaer** Stat., passing l. the little ch. of **Capel Taf Vechan.** Close to the stat. is the large artificial lake of **Pentwyn,** formed by the embankment of the Taff for the purpose of supplying Merthyr with water. But, except just at the foot of the lake, there is nothing to lead one to suppose that it is not a natural sheet of water; and the view looking up it, with the Breconshire Beacons at its head, is as fine as anything in the country. It is a great place for Merthyr excursionists, boats being allowed on the water for fishing and rowing.

The scenery gets wilder as the top of the valley is reached, the rly. passing the shoulder of the Beacon ranges by a tunnel, a little beyond which may be seen visions of the goat, now so uncommon in S. Wales.

34 m. **Torpantau** Stat., probably one of the highest in the kingdom. Here another magnificent view opens out, of a different character, as the line descends the alpine valley of **Glyn Collwng.** On l. are some waterfalls descending from the recesses of the Beacons, and below them are a few scattered farms and the solitary little ch. of **Capel Glyn Collwng,** with a primeval yew in the churchyard, shut in on every side by lofty hills, fringed with trees up to about half their height, and divided by numberless little tributary glens and defiles. Far in the distance are the vale of Usk and the blue ranges of Radnor Forest. Capel Glyn Collwng stands upon the lesser Taff.

To ascend the **Beacons** from this

side, the tourist should leave the train at Dolygaer and follow the stream of the Taff to its very source, from whence a steep but practicable climb will land him at the summit, 2910 ft. But, by getting out at Torpantau and skirting the top of the mountain to the rt., a very charming and singular walk is obtained to **Dyffryn Crownan,** a bold cul-de-sac of horseshoe shape, the precipitous walls of which are formed by mountain limestone (much quarried for the ironworks), below which the junction of the old red sandstone can be plainly seen all round. The scenery here is extremely romantic, and by pursuing the tramroad on the l. to **Pen-rhiw-Calch,** and ascending the shoulder of the hill above, the tourist obtains views of both valleys at one glance, he standing as it were on a narrow wall of hills between. This is well worth the trouble of the walk, particularly as Dyffryn Crownan is known to none, save a few residents in the vale of Usk. Whilst the pedestrian is exploring the Beacons, the ancient moraines in Cwm Llwch should not be overlooked.

The rly. now rapidly descends the valley of Glyn Collwng, at the foot of which (l.) is **Cui** (Mrs. Jones Williams), and

40½ m. **Talybont** Stat., from whence there are roads to Brecon and Crickhowell (8 m.) on either side the Usk. The one to Crickhowell is remarkably fine as it passes between Buckland, on l., and **Llanthetty,** on rt., just under the steep wooded sides of the Tor Voel.

On rt., under the mountain, is **Buckland** (J. P. Gwynne Holford, Esq., also of Cilgwyn, Co. Caermarthen), a house whose only beauty is in its situation, which can scarcely be surpassed. The private drive for a mile along the Usk is very fine. By the roadside stands an inscribed stone, called the Victorinus Stone, near Skethrog, in the parish of Llansaintfread. It is said to be a Roman monumental pillar. At Newton, or Skethrog, were born, in 1621, Henry Vaughan, the Silurist, and his twin brother, Thomas Vaughan, the astrologer and mysticist, who wrote under the name of Eugenius Philalethes. The latter was for some time vicar of Llansaintfread ; the former practised medicine, and wrote his divine poetry at Newton, near his favourite Usk.

The rly. now crosses the Usk, passing close to **Llansaintfread Church,** a humble edifice, somewhat eclipsed by an ostentatious tomb to Col. Gwynne Holford, quite out of keeping with the church or scene. There was formerly a curious epitaph in this church, running as follows :—

> " As I was so are yee,
> As I am you shall be;
> That I had that I gave,
> That I gave that I have;
> Thus I end all my cost,
> That I left that I lost."

The side of the Allt hill is now skirted, and a distant view of the Lake of Llangorse (Rte. 12) obtained, as the rly. joins the Hereford, Hay, and Brecon line, together with the Mid-Wales Rly., at 43½ m. Tal-y-llyn Junct. (Rte. 16).

47 m. **Brecon** (Rte. 12).

The turnpike road from Merthyr to Brecon (16 m.), although seldom travelled now, is well worth the trouble.

Above Cefn-Coed-y-Cymmer the valley narrows for a mile or two, and on the rt. the limestone mountain of Cefn-Cil-Samus rises steeply from the road, below which, at a considerable depth, the river is seen. Near the 4th m. is a fine view up and down the valley, and the road is now wholly upon the old red sandstone, having passed the nor-

thern edge of the coal-basin. The vale now opens considerably, and is tolerably well wooded.

4 m., at **Capel Nant-ddu,** where the Taff Vawr enters the vast mineral basin which stretches 100 miles from E. to W., the scenery becomes wilder and very decidedly of a mountain character. The Nant-ddu (Black Brook), and a little higher up the Crw, descend in long deep valleys, at the head of which are seen the summits of the Beacons.

9 m. l. a road branches across the mountain to Penderyn and Hirwain.

10 m. at **Pont-ar-Daf** the road crosses the infant Taff, which rises about 1 m. higher in the glen of Corn-ddu under the Beacon. A short distance further on is the **Storey Arms Inn,** where the traveller may bait his horses, and, as far as bread and cheese go, refresh himself. From hence a gentle ascent of 1½ m. leads to the summit of Corn-ddu, 10 minutes' walk from which is the principal Beacon, 2910 ft. above the sea, forming the highest mountain in South Wales. **Corn-ddu** and the **Big-van** are each formed by the meeting of 3 valleys, and their figure is therefore triangular. The lesser Taff rises on their S.E., the greater Taff on their S.W. side, while to the N. the valley of the Tarel and others are tributary to the Usk. The northern escarpment is very steep, and in some places precipitous, and the head of the valley below, with its little mountain-tarn of Llyn-cwm-llwch, fabled to be unfathomable, is gloomy and grand. The view, in fine weather, is very extensive, embracing the Channel for a great distance, with most of Breconshire and the Vale of Usk, and on the W. a large number of the Caermarthenshire hills. The formation is of Old Red sandstone,—

"And from the small angle of dip, the continuation of the beds forming the summits of the Vans is only a few feet beneath the carboniferous limestone near Merthyr. Great denudations have evidently been effected, and, standing on the Vans and looking northward, the imagination readily fills up the sea to the needful level, a main line of coast ranging with its bays and promontories E. and W. beneath, islands with steep cliffs occurring in the direction of the Black Forest and of the Cader and other mountains near Abergavenny."—*De la Beche.*

From the Storey Arms the road descends the valley of the Tarel, and, passing on rt. **Ffrwd-gwrech,** the charming seat of the late Col. Pearce, in which grounds is a pretty waterfall, enters **Brecon** (Rte. 12).

ROUTE 10.

FROM PONTYPOOL ROAD TO SWANSEA, BY QUAKERS' YARD, ABERDARE, AND NEATH.

(Great Western Railway.)

From Pontypool Road Junct. the line takes a westerly direction, passing Pontymoile Forge and the Park to 1 m. **Pontypool Town** Stat. It then passes under the Monmouthshire Rly. and enters the beautiful defile of **Cwm Glyn,** the wooded hills on each side of which rise very

steeply to a considerable height. 2 m. from Pontypool, on l., are the remains of the **Crumlin Pools,** once large and picturesque sheets of water, but now considerably shorn of their size and beauty. The one, however, is still deep, and was the scene of a terrible calamity, in 1868, by the upsetting of a boat containing a picnic party and the drowning of several young people.

At the end of the defile the rly. emerges into the valley of the Ebbw, and crosses it by the famous **Crumlin Bridge,** the loftiest of the kind in Britain.

The village of **Crumlin** (Rte. 7) lies immediately under the bridge, from whence the view both up and down the valley is of the most lovely character. The visitor looks down upon the foundry, the white cottages of the workmen, the small station of the Western Valleys Railway, and the rushing stream of the Ebbw, all diminished to Liliputian size; while lower down is **Crumlin Hall,** the modern residence of Mr. Kennard, at whose works the construction of the viaduct was carried on. The whole of the view is shut in by steep hills, rising directly from the water's edge, and clothed with wood to the very summit.

The **bridge** itself, designed by T. W. Kennard, Esq., is one of the most splendid engineering works in Great Britain, and consists of 10 openings, each of 150 ft. span and 210 ft. high, the piers being a series of cast-iron pillars fastened together by diagonal braces. The length of ironwork is 1500 ft., or, including masonry, 1658 ft. The materials consumed were 2479 tons 19 cwt. of iron, 31,294 cubic ft. of wood, and 51,361 cubic ft. of masonry. It took $3\frac{1}{2}$ years to build, and was opened for traffic in 1857. The cost of the whole was 62,000*l.*, or 41*l.* 7*s.* per ft. By a trap-door at each end, leading to a wooden subway, the visitor can walk along the whole length and thus gain a clear idea of the immense number and size of bolts and pillars required for its construction. At various times, rumours have gone forth as to the stability of the bridge, but the trials made by the rly. company, in presence of the inspector of railways, of running numbers of heavy engines and trains of coal over it, seem to have settled the question satisfactorily. The cost of this structure was as moderate as its design was magnificent; and the engineers were Messrs. Liddell and Gordon, who also erected the Rhymney Viaduct on this line (*see below*). The best view of it is from a stile on the road to Llanhillen Hill. At the end of the bridge is

5 m. **Crumlin** Stat.

Crossing a short interval of table-land, the train arrives at 7 m. Tredegar Junct. with the Sirhowy Rly. to Blackwood and Tredegar (Rte. 8).

The next valley is that of the Rhymney. The rly. crosses the Newport and Brecon line just above Maesycymmer Stat. (Rte. 9), and is carried over the valley by a very lofty stone viaduct (169 ft. high) to $8\frac{1}{2}$ m. Hengoed Junct. with the Rhymney Rly. (Rte. 14) to Rhymney and Cardiff.

The scenery is pretty and broken for a mile or two, but becomes bleak and barren at 11 m. **Llancaiach** Stat., where there is a junction with the Newport, Dowlais and Brecon line. A large number of extensive faults cross this portion of the coal-field; one in particular of 100 yds., running S.E.; so that the coal, which is worked by level at Tophill colliery, is obliged to be worked by a deep pit at Llancaiach colliery only a few hundred yds. distant. At one of the old farm-houses in this parish it is said that King Charles II. passed a night.

A picturesque winding dell, with some beautiful peeps of the Taff valley on the l., brings the traveller to

13 m. Quakers'-yard Junct. with the Taff Vale Rly. (Rte. 15), which line is used by the Great Western Company from here to Merthyr. Quakers' Yard derives its name from a burial-ground of that sect. Although a place of so vast commermercial development, the scenery of the valley for 3 m. or more is very striking.

Another viaduct carries the rly. across the Taff, and a long tunnel is entered, piercing the mountain into the valley of the Cynon (a tributary of the Taff, rising at Penderyn, on the confines of Glamorgan, in Brecknockshire), a little before arriving at 16 m. **Mountain Ash** Stat. A very large population has grown up here within the last few years, in consequence of the great development of the steam-coal trade, which derives its supplies from the Navigation Collieries of Messrs. Nixon and those of the Powell Dyffryn Co. (Limited).

The **Navigation** pit is one of the finest in the South Wales basin. It is 18 ft. in diameter inside the walling, and divided into four compartments, two of which are for the drawing of coal, one for sending the workmen up and down, and the fourth for the drainage. Notwithstanding the great depth of 370 yds., a carriage containing 2½ tons of coal can be wound up in one minute, and the whole colliery is estimated to supply more than 1000 tons a-day. The mineral property extends over an area of 7 m. long by 3 m. in width, covering from 4000 to 5000 acres of this 4-foot coal. The reader may therefore form a slight estimate, from this one case, of the boundless resources of the coal-field. In quality this coal is smokeless, which, ever since 1840, has been more or less sought after for the working of steamboats. The French Government has been using it exclusively for some time past, being convinced of its great superiority over other kinds. It is also employed in this country by the Admiralty, the Peninsular and Oriental, Royal Mail, Cunard, and other mail-packet companies.

Pass on l. the **Dyffryn,** the seat of the Right Hon. Lord Aberdare; and **Aberaman,** a mansion belonging to the Powell Duffryn Coal. Co.

19½ m. **Aberdare** Stat., situated at the junction of the Dare with the Cynon river.

‡**Aberdare** is a flourishing ironwork town, which has risen from a small village with wonderful rapidity. Forty years ago the population was only a few hundreds, whereas now it is upwards of 37,000, most of whom are dependent on the numerous collieries and ironworks. The Aberdare furnaces and mills, until the failure of the Company, belonged to Messrs. Hankey and Fothergill, the latter's seat (**Abernant House**) being close to the town; the Gadlys Works are the property of Messrs. Wayne. The whole neighbourhood is particularly celebrated for its valuable and rich seams of steam-coal, which has been recognised by her Majesty's Government as being the most useful for the navy. There are two churches, one of which, **St. Elvan's,** is a handsome Dec. building, with a fine peal of bells.

The scenery of the mountains on the l. is very fine and bold, sweeping down in steep escarpments overhanging the common of Hirwain Wrgan, the scene of the great battle between Rhys ap Tewdwr and Iestyn ap Gwrgan and his Norman allies, in which the gallant old Rhys fell sword in hand. Iestyn, the traitor, met with a better fate than he de-

served; for, fleeing like a coward before the Normans, once his friends, then his foes, he reached the religious house of Llangennys, in Gwent, and was there permitted to end his days in peace. Memorials of this conflict are still to be found in this parish, especially in the valley of Cadlan, the two largest tumuli being respectively 60 and 40 ft. in circumference and 9 ft. in height.

23 m. Hirwain Junct., with a line from Merthyr.

[After leaving the Merthyr station the line crosses the Taff Vale Railway, the river, and the canal, on a lofty viaduct, from which an extensive view is gained down the vale. The hill intervening between Merthyr and Aberdare is pierced by a long tunnel, on emerging from which the train arrives at

Abernant, 3 m. The vale of the Cynon is now visible for a considerable distance. Here are the furnaces of numberless collieries; indeed the whole valley is a continuous hive of manufacturing industry. Below Abernant is (1 m.) **Aberdare,** backed up by the noble ranges of Daren y Bwlchau, Cefn Rhosgwawr, and Mynydd Bach, which separate the Cynon from the Rhondda valley (Rte. 15).

In every direction, as far as the eye can reach, tokens of mining activity present themselves — coal-pits with their gloomy-looking engine-houses — lofty chimneys, coke-ovens with their long rows of dull light—and networks of tram-roads and railways—all combine to make it a busy scene. The line is carried on the northern slope of the valley past **Llwydcoed** 4 m. to the watershed of the Cynon, a dreary and desolate moor, to

6 m. Hirwain Junct.]

Hirwain is a populous though scattered village, dependent on the collieries of the Hirwain Coal Company. There are also iron-works here, originally commenced by Messrs. Mayberry and Wilkins, in 1758, which proved an unprofitable speculation, and they are standing idle.

The scenery now begins to improve. On an eminence 2 m. rt. is the parish church of **Penderyn.** The line descends the watershed of the Neath, and speedily exchanges the barren desolation of the hills for the wooded and smiling valley. On emerging from the Pen-cae-draen tunnel, the geologist will notice on the rt. **Craig-y-Dinas,** a singular protrusion of the carboniferous limestone rocks, running in a sharp point into the coal-measures and forming what is termed "a leaf." The highly inclined strata of the sandstone-beds are well seen as the train rushes down the steep incline. Craig-y-Dinas is so called from its inaccessible situation on a precipitous limestone rock, washed on one hand by the Hepstè and Meltè, and on the other by the brook Sychryd. On the opposide side of the vale, on rt., is **Pont-Neath-Vaughan,** and 1 m. further the populous hamlet of Pontwalby and the Powder-Works of Messrs. Curtis, a little distance from which is the station of **Glyn-Neath,** 28 m. The inn (Lamb and Flag, poor) is about ¾ m. from the station, and is the most convenient house in the neighbourhood for visiting the waterfall district; although for those who are able to rough it, the Angel at Pont-Neath-Vaughan is preferable.

For about 2 m. the tourist returns up the valley, but on the northern side, to **Pont-Neath-Vaughan** or *Fechan* (Angel Inn), a romantic little village placed in the most exquisite situation at the confluence of the united streams of the Neath and Pyrddin mountain torrent with the Melltè and Hepstè. It is under the

shadow of a narrow gorge, through which the Neath flows, crossed by a picturesque bridge of one arch, the effect enhanced by the eccentric growth of the ivy, which hangs in large curtain-like masses from the crown of the arch, and almost dips in the sparking stream below, and also immediately under the majestic Craig-y-Llyn. From the Lamb and Flag to this village the excursion can be taken in a carriage, but the remainder must be performed on a pony or on foot, unless the tourist wishes to proceed at once to Ystradfellte, about 4 m. to the N. A guide can be obtained at Pont-Neath-Vaughan. The course of the rivers and brooks, for whose scenery and wealth of waterfalls the Vale of Neath has been so justly praised, is rather intricate, and it will help the traveller, briefly to indicate the geography of the district. There are four main rivers, besides some tributary streamlets — the first of which, the *Pyrddin* (pron. Purthen), rises in a large swamp on the mountains to the N.W., near Capel Colbren, and 1½ m. above Pont-Neath-Vaughan unites with the **Nedd** or Neath river, which has its source about 8 m. due N. under the lofty summit of Fan Nedd. The **Melltè**, perhaps the largest of the group, is formed by two streams, the Llia and the Dringarth, rising respectively near Fan Llia and Fan Dringarth, in the same great range of mountain as the Neath, but about a mile or two to the E.; while the **Hepstè** rises considerably to the E. and unites with the Melltè at Cilhepstè. All these rivers, together with the small tributary of the **Sychrhyd**, unite to form the main stream of the Neath.

The first point is **Craig-y-Dinas**, a huge mass of limestone rock, reared, according to tradition, by the magic wand of the enchanter over the fairy palace where "mystic Uther's mighty son" and his warriors lie asleep, awaiting the trumpet-blast which on "the day when the red eagle and the black eagle shall go to war," is to arouse them from their long slumber and call them to the fray. At its foot runs the Sychrhyd, separating the counties of Brecon and Glamorgan. The view from the rock, extending down the whole length of the vale, with Swansea Bay in the distance, is one of the most lovely in all Wales, though the view *up* the glen is still finer :—

> "Round him rock
> And cliff, whose grey trees mutter to the wind,
> And streams down rushing with a torrent ire."

There is here a curious appearance of concentric strata called the **Bwa Maen** or Bow of Stone, a fine gable of carb. limestone, jutting out of a steep wooded bank of coal measure, which has escaped the mutilation by quarrying that has befallen the head of Craig-y-Dinas, the other side of the Sychrhyd.

The gorge of the **Sychnant**, which here emerges after a subterranean course of ½ a mile, and in this resembles the Alyn in Denbighshire, and other streams which are not fabulous, although rarely mentioned or visited, is perhaps more worthy of visit than any of the "stock" scenes in the neighbourhood. The lofty and many-tinted crags, and especially the magnificent one known as "Ystol y Weddonas," or "the Witches' Chair," would gladden the heart of an artist. In the bed of fireclay, which is equal to any in Great Britain, on l. are numbers of fossil ferns. The velvet turf upon the summit of Craig-y-Dinas was long the scene of fairy midnight revel; but, as the guide remarked, "the preaching of the Gospel had driven the little green men away." Few of the rising generation have ever heard of the fairies, even in the Vale of Neath, their former stronghold. Following up the course of the

Hepstè is the **Cil-hepstè Fall**, where the river dashes over a precipitous scarp of the rock about 50 ft. high; leaving a path beneath the fall, along which the visitor may pass, and, if necessary, take shelter from the rain. Just below are the lower falls, or rather rapids, which should not be omitted to be seen, though it requires more of a scramble to reach them. Crossing some high ground, the visitor next arrives at the Melltè river, upon which, at **Clyngwyn**, there is an exceedingly beautiful fall, containing a larger body of water than even that at Cil-hepstè; but as it is distributed over a greater distance, the effect is by no means so fine, besides which, there is no access to it from below, as precipitous rocks close up all the approaches.

The Middle Clyngwyn is just below, and is one of the best of the cataracts. The river takes a lofty double leap, then falls in one broad sheet into a deep pool, the rocks covered with trailing ivy and many-coloured mosses and lichens, forming the accessories of a scene alike enchanting to the artist or mere every-day tourist. Passing under the upper fall and climbing to the table-land above, the tourist obtains delicious views down the vale, the distant Bay of Swansea, and over the glittering waters of the Bristol Channel to the headlands of Devon and Somerset. In front is the gloomy valley of the "Devil's Glen," long appropriated by tradition as the haunt of demons—of the "Tylwyth Teg" or little good people, who though not good enough for heaven, were yet too good for its antipodes—of the "cwn wybr" (dogs of the sky), otherwise called "Cwn Annwn," whose fierce baying, mingled with the despairing shrieks of the victim, still resounds at night—of the "Cynhiraeth," whose wail of unutterable anguish fills with terror the belated wayfarer.

About 1½ m. higher up the Melltè flows through a very curious cavern called **Porth-yr-Ogof** (Gate of the Cave), about 40 ft. high, 20 ft. wide, and about 600 yds. in length. From the entrance can be seen a gleaming mass of calcareous spar, assuming very much the form of a child, and hence called "Llyn y Baban," or Pool of the Child. The visitor can penetrate for a considerable distance with the help of lights, but it is very fatiguing and scarcely repays the attempt. In the middle of the cave the river is rejoined by a portion of its stream, which disappears near Ystradfellte church, and flows underground as far as Porth-yr-Ogof. The outlet (for stream, not tourist) of Porth-yr-Ogof is worth exploring. Running N. overland to the entrance of the cave is the old bed of the Melltè (which must have been there for ages before it found or enlarged the channel below). It is partly covered with copsewood, and part of its base has fallen in, giving access to the cave on the right and the left. The scene during a flood is of the wildest description, as the river has been frequently swollen to a height above the entrance, which has been well nigh blocked up with trees and débris brought down by the torrent.

Ystradfellte is a small village, remarkable only for the beauty of its situation among the mountains, and its being as it were the last trace of civilisation for many weary miles between it and Brecon, which is about 18 m. distant. [The road pursues the desolate valley of the Llia, and is joined about 3 m. from the village by the **Sarn Helen**, which runs from the Vale of Neath to the Gaer, near Brecon (Rte 12), in a N.E. direction, crossing the Resolven Mountain and the ridge of Cerrig-Llwyd to the l. of Ystradfellte. Near its

junction with the turnpike is a stone called **Maen-madoc**, inscribed—

"Dervaci filius Julii ic jacit."

Another stone, which used to stand here near the road, inscribed "Marci Caritani filii Berici," has been removed to the Gnoll at Neath. The highest point of the pass is marked by the **Maen Llia**, a huge upright lozenge-shaped stone, visible from a long distance on both sides. The road then descends by the side of Y Fan Frynach, and joins the Merthyr and Brecon road near Glanrhyd.]

From Porth-yr-Ogof, the visitor may cross the high ground on the rt. bank of the Melltè, and descend to the Neath river, and from thence to the **Pyrddin**, which presents two of the most lovely falls of the whole group.

The upper one (2½ m. from Pont-Neath-Vaughan) is called **Scwd Einon Gam**, or Crooked Einon's Fall, and presents an unbroken sheet of water dashing over at a height of 80 ft.

The lesser fall, or **Scwd Gladys** (the Lady's Fall), is ½ m. nearer Pont-Neath-Vaughan, and is about 40 ft. in height, possessing, though in a less degree, very much the beautiful features of the former. The sides of this fall are studded with trees, starting promiscuously from the fissures and clefts of the rocks. Near it stood the Logan or rocking-stone (in weight 16 tons, yet movable by a finger's touch), which, by an act of wanton Vandalism which cannot be too strongly reprehended, was overturned in 1850 by a party of navvies who were employed on the railway. [If the pedestrian can afford time, he may follow the Pyrddin to its source, a distance of 5 m., and visit the little ch. of Capel Colbren and the waterfall of **Schwd Hen Rhyd** on the Llech, which in height exceeds them all (Rte. 13).]

Close to the stat. of **Glyn Neath** is **Aberpergwm**, the seat of Morgan Stuart Williams, Esq., the heir of W. Williams, Esq., a zealous cultivator of the Welsh literature and traditions. Aberpergwm, anciently called Glyn-Nedd, is commemorated by Lewis Glyn Cothi in the 15th centy., the festive board there being likened to King Arthur's, and the words spoken there being pronounced the ancient language of the Britons; and is one of the most charming and romantic spots in S. Wales. The fine growth of the timber, the undulations of the park, and the precipitous escarpments of the mountains produce a combination of effects rarely to be met with.

The road through the glen should be followed to the hill-top, or the winding footpath may be taken. By the side of the latter is a monumental stone, raised over a favourite pony, thus inscribed :—

"Optimus inter equos jacet hâc sub mole Corinnus;
Ut tibi cursus erat, sit quoque tuta quies.
Et si cura eadem sequitur tellure repostos;
Delicium Elysiis tu mihi rursus eris."

At Aberpergwm is one of the little churches, raised to supply the spiritual wants of the extensive parish of Cadoxton juxta Neath.

On a bank immediately above the stat. is the pretty cottage of **Ynis-las**, the residence of the Misses Williams, members of the same old family, well-known for the services rendered by them to Welsh literature and Welsh national music.

The Vale of Neath gradually widens in its downward course, and becomes more beautifully clothed with trees, and more graceful in the outlines of the hills on either side. The river glides along in charming reaches, though in a more peaceful stream than higher up the valley; and running very near it, the canal from Abernant to Neath offers many pretty scenes on its wooded banks. On the rt. is **Rheola** (Capt. J.

Vaughan), second only to Aberpergwm in the singular beauty of its situation. Here also is a beautiful little memorial church, erected by the late Mr. Nash Vaughan in memory of his first wife. A little further on is **Resolven** Stat. 31 m., near which on a bank to the l. is another pretty church.

½ m. from the station stood a gigantic but hollow oak, generally known as **Wiclyffe's Oak,** under the shadow of which the great reformer is said to have preached. It lies now, a mere shell, against the wall of the adjoining farmyard.

To the l. (½ m.) is **Melincourt Fall,** where the Cleddau brook leaps over a rock 80 ft. high into the wooded glen below. Upon the opposite side of the valley at *Abergarwad*, not far from the "Stag" public-house, is another fine fall, worth visiting after rain.

Between Resolven and 35 m. **Aberdylais** stat. on rt. is *Ynisygerwn* (J. T. Dilwyn Llewelyn, Esq.), the ancient seat of the Llewelyns of Penllergare, now tenanted by Hon. H. C. Bruce. The mill and cascade at Aberdulais were a general theme of admiration amongst the old Welsh tourists, but the mill has long since been incorporated with the tinplate works of Messrs. Williams and Co., and the cascade hidden amongst the buildings of the same establishment.

From hence to Neath the valley rapidly extends. On l. is the **Gnoll** (Charles Evan Thomas, Esq.) (Rte. 1), and on rt., 1 m. from Neath, the **Church of Cadoxton,** which contains amongst its parochial curiosities the pedigree of the family of Williams, engraved on sheets of copper, and occupying 4 long pages. Also a quaint epitaph to a Mrs. Rose Williams, in the form of an acrostic.

A little to the N.W. of Neath is **Dyffryn,** the modern mansion of the late Howel Gwyn, Esq.

Cadoxton is one of the few churches in the Principality where the custom of delivering a "Plygain" on Christmas morning is kept up. (See *Introduction*, page xxvii).

37 m. **Neath** Stat. (Rte. 7).

38 m. **Neath** *Abbey* Stat.

40½ m. **Briton Ferry Road** Stat.

44 m. **Swansea** (Rte. 2).

ROUTE 11.

ABERGAVENNY TO MERTHYR, BY BRYNMAWR AND TREDEGAR.

This route is performed by a branch of the London and North-Western Rly., which runs from Abergavenny as far as Nantybwch, the remainder of the line not being completed.

The rly. quits the Great Western at Abergavenny Junct., and passing the Lunatic Asylum, reaches

1 m. **Abergavenny** (Brecon Road Stat.). It then crosses the Usk on a higher level than the high road, and winds round the foot of the fine mass of the Blorenge.

2 m. looking back from **Llanfoist** (**Llanfoist House,** C. Bailey, Esq.) is a lovely view of the Scyrrid and the Sugar Loaf, with the town of Abergavenny.

3 m. **Govilon** Stat. Here are wire-works—also a pretty modern ch. **Aberbaiden** is the residence of Capt. Scott, and **Llanwenarth** of J. Humfrey, Esq.

The rly. rapidly rises to a considerable height to

4½ m. **Gilwern** Stat. From hence there is a superb view of the vale of Crickhowell, with the town in the distance, the Daren, the Cader, the Grywney Valley and the Black Mountains. At this point the tourist leaves the valley of the Usk and enters the gorge of the **Clydach**, which rises in mountains to the S.W., and, rushing torrent-wise, forms the waterfall of Pwll y Cwyn, at the bottom of which an aqueduct carries the Brecon and Newport Canal at a height of 80 ft. above the stream. The rly. is carried over a picturesque ravine by a lofty viaduct to

6 m. **Clydach** Stat. On l. are large limestone quarries. The rocky glen of the Clydach, which is not unlike parts of Matlock, is at once highly picturesque and enlivened by active industry ; and in its sides are mines and quarries of iron, coal, and limestone, on which formation the rly. now emerges, before entering the coal-measures, upon which it remains for the rest of the route. At intervals are seen large iron furnaces, forges, and rolling-mills, placed at a great depth below the line. White streaks or single dots along the hill-sides indicate the houses of the colliers and forgemen, as they are grouped in rows, or planted singly. The Clydach forges were set going by Mr. Jayne. The limestone on both sides of the dingle (about 500 ft. in thickness) is extensively worked to supply the iron-works of Nantyglo, Blaina, and Beaufort, to which places it is conveyed by means of locomotives.

The tourist should get out at Clydach (which is in Brecknockshire) and descend the hill to the bed of the river to visit the **falls** of the Clydach, singularly picturesque, although not of very great height. The principal one, **Pwll-y-cwn,** or the Pool of Dogs, has worn some singular caldrons in the rock. Tradition avers that the body of a murdered woman was discovered there eaten by dogs. Ascend the l. bank of the river to the tramroad, and *walk* up it to Brynmawr. The scenery in this part of the dell is enchanting.

Quitting Clydach Stat. the rly. still keeps at a considerable height above the road, which is seen on rt., climbing the **Blackrock** Hill.

The line passes through two tunnels, and is carried over some bold ravines, revealing transient glimpses which would rejoice an artist. At the head of the glen (whence the view towards the N. is peculiarly grand) the trees disappear, and vegetation grows scantier as the traveller approaches

9 m. Brynmawr Junct., with the Blaenafon line, opened in 1869 (Rte. 6). He would naturally anticipate that at this height (1200 ft. above the sea) population would greatly diminish, but the reverse is the case. This upland district of bleak and barren moor, swamp and bog, 70 years ago a sheep-walk, destitute of human habitation, is now converted into a teeming hive of human beings.

From hence to Merthyr, town succeeds to town, almost like a continuous street, the principal objects on which the eye rests being tramways and railways, machinery for raising coal, and "tips," the raw unsightly heaps of rubbish ejected from the coalpit mouths, interspersed with pools and tanks formed by damming up the streamlets, while at intervals of 2 or 3 m. the

groups of colossal chimneys, cones, and blackened walls and roofs, with their accompaniment of smoke and flame, announce that the visitor is approaching an ironwork. Were there no other appearances, those of the inhabitants would be sufficient. Groups of colliers with features undistinguishable from coal-grime, and women, from the nondescript style of their garments, apparently of the epicene gender, with cheeks bronzed from exposure to the weather, and bare ancles of Amazonian proportion, are met at every step.

The impulse given to the iron-trade by the construction of rail-roads in Great Britain and other countries was nowhere more felt than in this district. Wages rose high (as indeed they always are, when compared with those of agricultural labourers), and masters made enormous fortunes. Within the last few years, however, competition has told immensely on the S. Wales trade; the number of collieries and furnaces everywhere erected, and the discovery of new ores and new fields, particularly in S. Yorkshire, Cleveland, Northamptonshire, and Somersetshire, had considerably diminished the profits of the trade even before the late period of general depression had set in. Since then, the iron-trade in S. Wales may be said to have utterly collapsed, and in those cases where the means or the enterprise to turn to the manufacture of steel have been wanting the works seem to have been permanently closed. Until within the last 30 years, the population was left to increase with no adequate provision for its instruction, temporal or spiritual. The wealthy owners, who derived large fortunes, seemed to overlook the responsibilities and obligations that they had incurred by bringing such large masses of people together, and, as a consequence of this blameable neglect, ignorance, disorder, and disaffection were rampant; and were it not for the endeavours of the Dissenters, religion and morality would have been almost wholly unknown. Fortunately for S. Wales, however, a healthier and better spirit has been rapidly growing amongst all classes: schools, chapels, and churches have been extensively provided, while the work-people have done much to raise themselves in the social scale, and yield to few in the same rank of life in intelligence, industry, and morality.

Brynmawr is a large ironwork town, principally composed of those employed in the Nantyglo works. A neat ch. has been erected just outside the town and close to the station, although the great bulk of the people patronise the chapels, which abound.

[1 m. l. is the town of **Nantyglo.** The road thither runs through the Nantyglo ironworks (which lie about mid-way), the property of the Bailey family, who have acquired from them much of their enormous wealth. Here is a station of the Western Valleys Railway. (Rte. 7.)

11 m. Beaufort Junct., from whence a short branch of 2 m. is given off on l. to **Ebbw Vale Works.**

Beaufort Ironworks form a long straggling street of about 1 m. in length, of exceeding dirtiness, and affording nothing whatever to interest the tourist.

The rly. is now carried over the Cwm Carnol, a pretty little dingle, by a lofty viaduct, having on l. *Cefnmawr House.* A good distant view is obtained of Ebbwvale.

12 m. **Trefil** Stat.

13½ m. Nantybwch Junct., with the Sirhowy Rly. (Rte. 8), by which the traveller reaches **Tredegar.** The remainder of the route is performed

by an *omnibus*, which leaves the station daily for Merthyr.

14½ m. At **Rhymney Gate** the Rhymney river separates the counties of Brecon, Glamorgan, and Monmouth.

2 m. l. are the Rhymney Ironworks (Rte. 14).

The road now traverses the bleak and barren Waun Common, in winter one of the most severe and shelterless roads in the kingdom. Frequent piles of stones by the roadside mark the sites of little huts, erected by squatters, who were under the impression that if they could raise their dwelling in a single night they obtained a legal right to the soil. The Lord of the Manor, however, differed from them, and they were speedily ejected.

At the top of the hill the road passes under the Newport and Brecon Rly. (Rte. 9) close to **Dowlais Top** Stat.

It then descends a long hill of 2 m. through the dismal streets of Dowlais to **Merthyr**. (Rte. 15.)

ROUTE 12.

FROM MONMOUTH TO BRECON, BY ABERGAVENNY AND CRICKHOWEL.

For route from Monmouth to Raglan, 8 m., see Rte. 5.

9½ m. **Cross Bychan**, from the high ground of which the traveller obtains a noble view of the valley of the Usk. The long ridge of the Scyrrid Fawr and the tall sharp cone of the Sugar Loaf are seen from 6 to 10 m. on the rt., while in front and more to the l. is the huge shapeless mass of the Blorenge.

[A road to the rt. leads to Monmouth, through **Bryngwyn** (Archdeacon Crawley), Tregaer, and Dingestow.]

11 m. rt. **Clytha** (W. Herbert, Esq.). The house, a handsome freestone building with an Ionic portico, is seen through the trees. It contains some good Italian pictures but it is not shown. The building on the l. on the hill, called the Castle, is a family mausoleum, erected in 1790 ; the view from it of the Vale of Usk is magnificent.

[A road to the l. leads to *Usk* 6 m. (Rte. 5), passing, 2 m. l., **Coed-y-Bunedd**, an ancient encampment on a wooded hill ; **Brynderwen**, the seat of the Rev. W. Bruce ; and 5 m. Llancayo.] Just before arriving at Clytha, the road passes through a deep cutting in the upper Silurian rocks which constitute the extreme or outer covering of the Usk valley or elevation, so well known to geologists. At the bottom of the hill the old red sandstone reappears.

11½ m. at the Swan, a road-side inn, the Usk first shows itself, and on the rt. [a road leads to **Llanarth** Court (John A. Herbert, Esq.), the handsome seat of an old Monmouthshire Roman Catholic family.

4 m. l., near the corner of a road to Abergavenny, through Llanvapley, is **Cillwch**, an old farmhouse, formerly the seat of the Progers family.

5 m. **Llantilio Crosseny Park** (Sir H. Jackson, Bart.) and **Church**, very prettily situated close to the mansion. It is a spacious building, principally Dec., with later work in the large chapel on the N. side of the presbytery. The chancel is separated from the nave by an arch of such depth and thickness as to be really a

passage. In the churchyard is an altar-tomb, erected by Col. Clifford to the memory of his son. Llantilio was once the residence of a younger branch of the Powels, and on the extinction of the male line it came by marriage into the family of Lewis, and then to its late owner, Colonel Clifford.

To the N. of the park are vestiges of an old fortified house, said to have been the residence of Sir David Gam, and called *Old Court.*

On an eminence 1½ m. to the N. is **White Castle,** 5½ m. from Skenfrith and 5 m. from Grosmont, and forming the western point of the Monmouthshire Trilateral. It appears never to have had a keep, but was a fortified area consisting of a lofty curtain wall, mural towers, and gatehouse; capable, however, of containing a large force, which was probably accommodated in timber-sheds built against the inside of the walls. It is surrounded by earth-works and ditches of remarkable strength, which have been commonly attributed to its Welsh lords, though the best modern opinion assigns them to the reign of King John, in which the Castle was probably built. Like all the Border castles, which were not the residence of some powerful noble, it fell quickly into ruins after the settlement of the country.

Still further to the north rises the **Graig Hill**, an isolated wooded eminence, and a very conspicuous feature in Monmouthshire landscape.

The road from Llantilio continues to Monmouth, 7½ m., passing the little village of **Llanvihangel Ystern Llewern,** and 4 m. the **Hendre,** the seat of John Allan Rolls, Esq. To the S. of the house is the site of the Abbey of **Grace Dieu,** founded by John of Monmouth in 1229.

5½ m. **Rockfield** (General Sir John Garvock).

7½ m. Monmouth.]

Proceeding on the high road to Abergavenny is

12 m., rt., **Llansaintfraed** (Major Herbert). The ch. is one of the most diminutive in the country.

13 m. a road on l. runs to Usk, crossing the river a little distance off. On the opposite bank is **Pantygoitre,** formerly the seat of the Morgans, and now of A. D. Berrington, Esq.; and the interesting Church of **Llanfair Kilgeddin,** of late 14th cent. style, well restored in 1876. The walls are enriched with some remarkable illustrations of the Canticle "All ye Works of the Lord, Bless ye the Lord," designed and executed by Mr. Heywood Sumner. The work is of great artistic merit and is also interesting as an instance of the revival of the method, known as "sgraffito," which is said to have been used in the Catacombs of Rome. The keys of the church may be obtained from the Rectory, which is opposite the side gate of Pantygoitre.

14 m. the King of Prussia, a well-known roadside hostelry.

14 m. l. is the primitive Church of **Llangattoc,** situated on the bank of the Usk, on the other side of which, under the shadow of the Blorenge, is **Llanover,** the seat of Lady Llanover, situated in a small but beautifully wooded park. The gardens are worth seeing. Llanover Church still retains the custom of the "plygain" on Christmas morning, which is usually attended by a large congregation.

From **Penpergwm** Stat. (on l.) the Great Western Rly. runs parallel to the turnpike-road.

16 m. rt. are the fine old woods and a glimpse of the old house of **Coldbrook,** the ancestral seat of F. Hanbury Williams, Esq., and once the residence of the famous Sir Charles Hanbury Williams, "the polished courtier and the votary of

wit and pleasure." He was British ambassador to Berlin and St. Petersburg in 1744, and was one of the chief ornaments of the Court. The house contains some carvings and family portraits.

From hence the road runs down a gentle incline into the old town of

17 m. ♆ **Abergavenny** (Rte. 4). The road enters between the castle on the l. and the Priory on the rt., behind which are seen the tower and Perp. window of the old priory-church. Abergavenny (the Gobannium of Antoninus) is chiefly remarkable for the beauty of its situation in the Vale of Usk (the garden of Wales), at the junction of the small stream the Gavenny—

> "The brook that christeneth Abergeney."
> *Drayton.*

It is surrounded on every side, says Churchyard,

> "by mountains broad and high,
> And some thick woods to please the gazer's eye"—

the chief mountains being the Scyrrid Fawr and Fach on the rt., the Blorenge on the l., and the Sugar Loaf, with its shoulders of the Deri and the Rholben, at the N. of the town. Though in the old parts of the town many of the streets are narrow and inconvenient, great improvements have been made of late years by the public spirit of the inhabitants. An excellent supply of water has been obtained, and an efficient system of drainage carried out. A Town Hall (having a large assembly-room) has been erected, with capacious covered market adjoining, and a large cattle-market has also been provided. The **Church** (St. Mary's) has been severely handled in former times, and altered by modern churchwardens in a lamentable manner. It was originally the chapel of a Benedictine priory, founded in the beginning of the 12th cent. There are no appreciable remains of the original Norman chapel, and the present structure seems to belong to the early part of the 14th cent. This ch. was cruciform, with a central tower, E. of which was the monks' choir, with 24 stalls, 12 on each side, of carved 14th-centy. oak, still remaining. Choir and chancel are of great length. The transepts were extended eastward by the erection of aisles opening into the choir; and these aisles have been used as burial-places, first of the lords of Abergavenny, and then of the nobles of the district; the S. aisle having acquired the name of the Herbert, and the N. that of the Lewis chapel. The monuments in these, though greatly mutilated, and marred by ill-advised repairs, are yet of great interest, and well worth inspection. They are chiefly in the form of altar-tombs, or tombs in recesses, having recumbent effigies lying upon them; and they form a striking series of monumental effigies from the 13th to the 17th centy., displaying the various changes in the arms and armour of the knightly warriors, and exhibiting a consecutive series of illustrations, not only of armour but also of costumes, whether of knights or ladies. Few churches contain so regular a series of these. In the centre of the Herbert chapel stands the tomb of Sir William ap Thomas (ob. 1446) and his wife, Gladys (daughter of Sir David Gam, and widow of Sir Roger Vaughan), the parents of William Herbert, 1st Earl of Pembroke. The figures are of alabaster. Under the arch between the chapel and choir is the alabaster altar-tomb of Sir Richard Herbert of Coldbrook, and his wife, Margaret. He was 2nd son of Sir William ap Thomas, and was beheaded in 1469, after the Battle of Banbury, with his elder brother, the Earl of Pembroke. Between the main piers under the archway betwixt the Herbert chapel and the choir is the tomb of Laurence

de Hastings, Lord of Abergavenny (ob. 1348). In the lower part of the recess of a window is the recumbent figure of a knight in armour, sculptured in freestone, said to represent Sir William de Hastings, half-brother of the last-named (ob. 1349). In a recess of S. wall of the Herbert chapel is the alabaster monument of Sir Richard Herbert, of Ewyas, from whom are descended the earls of Pembroke and Carnarvon, and the Marquis of Bute. He died in 1510. Against the pier of the arch between the choir and N. aisle is a female figure on an altar-tomb, said to be Eva, wife of William de Braose, Lord of Abergavenny. She died in 1230. At the foot of this is another female figure, less defaced, and said to be Eva de Cantelupe, Baroness of Abergavenny in her own right. She was daughter of the last-named, and died in 1256. Both tombs are earlier than the ch. There is a well-carved figure in oak of a young knight in armour, which at present lies in the Lewis chapel, supposed to be George de Cantelupe, Lord of Abergavenny, who died 1273. There are also interesting monuments to Sir David Lewis, Judge of the High Court of Admiralty (ob. 1584), and Judge Powell (ob. 1635).

In the Herbert chapel are the remains of a Jesse tree, perhaps one of the most perfect extant; an emblematical representation of the genealogy of our Lord from David, formed by a tree growing out of the body of the sleeping Jesse. On the branch are represented, by small statues amidst the foliage, the different personages from whom he is descended. Churchyard, in the margin of his poem (1587), says, "In this church was a most famous worke in manner of a genealogy of kings, called the Roote of Jesse, which work is defaced and pulled down in pieces." It is supposed that it may originally have formed the reredos of the high altar, and part of the screen between the choir and the Lady Chapel. It is most likely that it was pulled down at the Reformation. All that remains is the grand figure of Jesse, the stem of the tree issuing from his left side and grasped by the left hand of the figure, above which it is cut short off. It is in good preservation, and a very fine sample of bold oak carving of the 15th centy., if not earlier.

The **Castle,**—

"The rent Norman tower that overhangs
The lucid Usk,"—

a shattered and shapeless ruin, on a mount near the S. extremity of the town, was founded by the Norman Hammeline de Baladun soon after the Conquest, and, during the long period of struggle between the Welsh and their imperious and tyrannical masters, the Lords Marchers, was repeatedly the scene of bloody deeds and murders. Giraldus observes "that it was dishonoured by treason oftener than any other castle in Wales." In two instances it is asserted by the Welsh historian, that their chieftains were invited under pretence of friendship and the adjustment of differences within these walls, and while seated unarmed at the board were assassinated by their Norman entertainers in defiance of the laws of hospitality. The lordship passed in time from the house of Braose to Cantilupe, Hastings, Beauchamp, and Neville, with which last noble house it has remained since the reign of Henry VI., the title of the Earl of Abergavenny being derived from this castle.

The ruins are now partly occupied by a private house, and the enclosure within the walls is converted into a garden. A public terrace walk runs along the outside and commands a charming view.

The town was once famous for its manufacture of flannel, and after-

wards for that of wigs made of bleached goat's hair, but both these sources of industry have departed. As a commercial town, Abergavenny derives most of its importance from the markets, which are largely attended by customers from the hill-districts. There is excellent fishing to be obtained in the Usk under certain regulations.

The only modern public buildings in Abergavenny worth notice are the **Lunatic Asylum,** which is placed in a commanding situation overlooking the town and valley; a handsome structure in the early Pointed style, erected in 1850 at a cost of 40,000*l.*, for the reception of lunatic patients of the joint counties of Monmouth, Brecon, and Radnor, and since then much enlarged; and the **Town Hall,** of grey stone and Gothic style, with shops and a spacious market on the ground floor.

There are also neat almshouses and a church erected by Miss Rachel Herbert in 1839.

A bridge of 7 arches carries the Merthyr road across the river, and close beside it, but on a higher level, the railway bridge of the Merthyr and Tredegar line is taken, producing a curious but not unpicturesque effect.

Beyond it, the **Blorenge** (1908 ft.) is a mass of old red sandstone capped by carboniferous limestone, and millstone grit, and is the cornerstone of the N. crop of the S. Wales coalfield, which here turns to the S. to Pontypool and to the W. to Merthyr. Much beautiful scenery is to be found in the woods and dingles at its base, and in particular at the curious amphitheatre called "the Punchbowl," evidently formed by a landslip. The view from the summit on a fine day is very beautiful. It may be ascended most easily by keeping to the l. round the Punchbowl, an excursion of about 4 hrs. A carriage may be taken half the distance, or the ascent may easily be made from the Govilon Stat. (Rte. 11.)

The **Sugar Loaf** mountain (1954 ft.) is frequently ascended on account of the view from its summit, which is accessible to within 100 yds. by a light carriage, an excursion of about 4 hrs. On foot the ascent is most conveniently made over the Rholben, the central of the three hills to the N. of the town. The walk may be varied by descending over the Derni, the hill to the right as you ascend over the Rholben.

The **Scyrrid Fawr** (1601 ft.), or Holy Mountain, is described in Rte. 4. It may be ascended by walking or driving 3 m. on the Ross road, and turning to the l. The descent may be made from the N. end to the Llanfihangel Stat.

Leaving Abergavenny, on the l. are the Union House, the rly. and turnpike road to Merthyr. The handsome grey stone mansion to the left is *The Brooks* (Capt. T. Hill). The tourist now skirts the hill-side along the l. bank of the Usk. The tops of the mountains are barren and craggy, but their slopes are checkered with plantations and enclosed fields dotted about with white cottages. The low ground is chiefly very rich meadow, which, however, frequently suffers in floods of the river.

18 m. rt. **Pentre** (Mrs. Wheeley).

19 m. l. **Llanwenarth** Church, with a Perp. tower, and beyond it, on the other side of the Usk, the villas of *Aberbaiden* and *Tymawr*. The two portions of the parish are still known as Llanwenarth ultra and citra Usk. To the rt. is Llanwenarth Graig, a wooded shoulder of the Sugar Loaf.

21 m. a stone on the roadside marks the boundary between England and Wales. On rt. is **Sunnybank** (Mrs. Parkinson), and immediately beyond it the village of

Llangwryney, where the little river Gwryney joins the Usk, which hard by is crossed by a neat lattice-girder bridge, erected in 1859 for the convenience of the residents on either side the river. On rt. 1 m. is the village of Llangenau.

22 m. rt. **Court-y-gollen** (Ven. Archdeacon Davies), in whose park stands an upright stone, 13 ft. high. probably Druidical. The small and graceful Gothic structure on the l. is a modern farm-house. On the opposite side of the river, well sheltered by a wooded bank, stands **Dan-y-park**, the well-timbered seat of Mrs. Crawshay, once the property of Mr. Skrine the traveller, and afterwards of Mr. Kendall. The tourist, if fortunate in his season and day, will understand why this part of the Usk is so extolled. The woods feather down to the water's edge ; the river winds in graceful curves, and rippling rills from the mountains water the banks and produce a rich profusion of wild-flowers. Many neat and pretty villas are scattered about, giving the place an aspect of trimness and smiling prosperity ; and the valley looks equally well in the bright green of spring or the golden tints of autumn.

23 m. ✝ **Crickhowel** called by Leland "a pretty townlet upon Usk," though the epithet is applied rather to the situation than the town itself, which, however, has much improved within the last few years. At the E. end, near the Abergavenny road, stand the ivy-clad ruins of the **Castle**, said to have once occupied a space of 8 acres in all, the structure itself with its keep, bailey, &c., covering 2 acres 1 rood and 14 perches, but now reduced to the fragments of a square and round tower. It was one of a small group of castles designed to check the incursions of the Welsh of Brecknock and Radnor through the dangerous pass of Bwlch and the valley of the Rhiangoll.

The **Church**, restored in 1864, from designs by *Mr. C. West*, is a cruciform E. E. structure consisting of nave, chancel, and two transepts with a central tower surmounted by a shingled spire founded in 1303 by Lady Sibyl de Pauncefote, but much metamorphosed by the addition of 2 plain aisles. The two transepts are called respectively the Gwernvale and Rumsey Chapels ; there are 2 fractured monumental effigies, in recesses of the wall of the chancel, of a cross-legged knight, perhaps Sir Grimbald de Pauncefote, and a lady supposed to have been the foundress ; and a marble monument to Sir John Herbert of Dan-y-Castell and his lady, 1666. The chancel was restored in 1883. The view from the churchyard, looking up the Vale of Usk, is very lovely.

Near the W. extremity of Crickhowel stands a picturesque perpendicular Gothic gateway, originally attached to an old house of the Herberts, built in the reign of Henry VII., and called **Porthmawr**, but previously Cwrt Garw, forming the entrance to the residence of P. Davies, Esq. Through it is seen a landscape of extreme beauty, including views of **Glanusk Park** (Sir J. R. Bailey, M.P.), **Glanwysk Villa** (Mrs. Miles), and **Gwernvale** (Mrs. Lloyd). A long bridge leads across the Usk, to Llangattoc, 1 m. l., with a fine old church and picturesque church-yard.

Near it is **Llangattoc Park** (J. Evans, Esq.), a beautifully wooded domain of the Duke of Beaufort. In the cliffs of the mountain limestone of the hill above, which frown over the village, is a curious cave, which penetrates into the rock for some distance, and was formerly called Eglwys Faen, or the "stone church," a large vaulted chamber abounding in stalactites. It was probably used as a place of conceal-

ment. It is said that on the table-land of the mountain above was fought a great battle, in 728, between Ethelbald and the force of Glamorgan. The remains of a warrior were discovered under a cairn about 30 years ago.

Crickhowel receives its name from an ancient British camp, nearly triangular in form, which crowns the summit of the Table Mountain, or **Crug Hywel**, about 2 m. to the N.E. of the town. It has been attributed to Hywel ap Rhys, Prince of Gwent, who made war with the lord of Brecon, and probably used this as his frontier intrenchment.

Smollett, in 'Humphrey Clinker,' mentions "Crickhowel flannels," which were formerly in high repute; but they are no longer manufactured.

[A very pretty excursion can be made to **Llangenau**, 2 m., where the famous well of St. Cenau formerly enjoyed the repute of miraculous powers, and amongst other properties possessed that of giving the mastery of a house to the first of a new married couple that drank of it.

St. Cenau is evidently the same saint as St. Keyne, who also has a well in Cornwall, to which the same miraculous powers are attached. Hence the following incident is related by a Cornish Benedick :—

"I hasten'd as soon as the wedding was done,
And left my wife in the porch,
But i' faith, she had been wiser than I,
For she took a bottle to church."—*Carew.*

The church is one of the most picturesque little buildings in the county, situated close to the bank of the babbling Grwyney, in a very deep dell, overshadowed by hanging woods. On the opposite side are **Penydarren** (J. Doyle, Esq.), and lower down the pretty villa of **Tyn-y-vro.**

The whole of the walk up the dingle to **Llanbedr**, 2½ m. E. of Crickhowel, is most lovely, and presents an endless variety of wood, water, and hill. The two streams of the Greater and Lesser Grwyney make the scene more attractive.

6 m. further, in a dell to the l. of the Sugar Loaf, is **Partrishow Church** (from *Parthau-yr-Ishow*, "the parcel of *Ishow*," the patron saint; or a corruption of *Merthyr Ishow*, Ishow the Martyr) a little, primitive, sequestered spot, buried in the heart of the mountains, with scarce a house in sight. It is very small, consisting only of a chancel and nave, but is remarkable for a roodloft of Irish oak (temp. Henry VII.) of great delicacy and beauty of execution, and for two stone altars at the E. end of the nave. There is also a chantry at the N. end of the church with a separate entrance, and a large stone altar with incised crosses. There is a good open roof of timber frame-work, and a very ancient font, with the legend 'In tempore Gynillyn Meilir me fecit.' Cynhyllyn was the son of Rhŷs Gôch, Lord of the district in the reign of Henry I. It is however in a very dilapidated condition. In the valley below the ch. is a bridge over the Grwyney, called **Pont-yr-Esgob,** or Bishop's Bridge, from whence Baldwin, Archbishop of Canterbury, preached the Crusade in company with Giraldus Cambrensis. From hence a bridle-path may be followed to Llanthony Abbey (Rte. 4), about 6 m. On the return to Crickhowel, about 1 m. from the town, near the roadside, at a farm called *Tyn-y-lad*, was formerly an inscribed stone, with this inscription :—

TVRPILLI IZ IACIT
PVVERI TRILVNI DVNOCATI.

It has been recently removed to Glanusk Park.

The road to Brecon is carried on past scenes of surprising beauty. 24 m. on l. is **Glannant** (Miss

Bevan), on rt. **Gwernvale** (Mrs. Lloyd), and across the river, under the wooded slopes of the Llangattoc Hill, is **Glanwysk** (Mrs. Miles). On the rt. the rugged escarpment of the **Daren** mountain stands well out.

26 m. l. is **Glanusk Park,** the handsome seat of Sir J. Russell Bailey, Bart., a modern Elizabethan structure in a lovely park, with a 3-arched bridge and a castellated lodge, all in very good taste. Just above the bridge, in a most enchanting situation, on the bank of the river, and commanding splendid views of the neighbouring hills, is **Penmyarth** Church, erected by the late Sir J. Bailey as a family mausoleum. In the park is the famous Turpilian stone, which was transferred hither from the hill above Crickhowel. The Latin of the inscription is of the faulty character which is common in ancient Welsh-Latin.

[A little way on the Crickhowel side of Glanusk, a road to rt. goes to **Talgarth,** 10 m.

1½ m. on l. **Tretower Castle,** now reduced to a single round keep-tower, and some fragments of walls, stands on the l. bank of the Rhiangoll about 1 m. from its junction with the Usk. It consisted of a triangular enclosure, with two round towers at the N. and S. angles and a keep at the W. The two sides are each about 60 yds. in length, and the base about 80 yds. The keep is of peculiar interest to archæologists because it affords a rare example of a rectangular Norm. keep which has been gutted and replaced by an E. E. round tower. Among local castles it most resembles Bronllys in character and date, though it has some good E. E. fireplaces. The stones of Valens and Peregrinus, described in 'Arch. Cambr.,' 1851 (p. 227), have been built into the walls. Owain Glyndwr nearly destroyed it in 1403, but it was afterwards hastily repaired; and as soon as the neighbouring castle of Dinas was destroyed, Tretower returned to its former insignificance. In **Tretower Court,** long the mansion of the Vaughans, from whose stock sprang the Silurist (Henry Vaughan), are some good specimens of Perp. domestic architecture, the mansion being of the 15th centy. The great hall is now a barn, but other apartments still retain their fine original roofs. Some additions to the old mansion have a defensive character.

3 m. **Cwmddu,** a pleasing little village, situated amidst most romantic scenery, and celebrated as the residence of the Rev. T. Price (Carnhuanwc), a man well known for his poetic imagination and ardent love for the Celtic remains and customs of his country. The church is a spacious building, with an embattled tower, and has a stone built into it, by Mr. Price, with the inscription

CATACVS HIC JACET FILIVS TEGERNACUS.

Another early incised stone is built in the S. wall, with an engraved cross of elegant design, and 2 escutcheons, that to the rt. supposed to belong to one of the De Sully family. This ch. has a rich and well-preserved rood-screen, forming a lining to the wall at the E. end. A barbarous flat ceiling hides the original roof.

A little below the village is **Gaer,** the site of a Roman station, by the side of which the Via Julia passed from Isca Legionum to Maridunum, or Caermarthen. Numerous coins of the Lower Empire, as well as fragments of bricks, have been found here. On the **Pentir Hill** there is a large camp partly of British and partly of Roman formation.

7 m. On a steep, conical hill on rt., above the road, is **Dinas,** the mere

outline of a castle, and "ruinus almost to the hard ground" even in Leland's time, probably of the age of Edward I., and retaining some curious traces of an excavation or well, like that at Morlais, near Merthyr. The castle was attacked and taken by Ethelfleda, daughter of Alfred the Great; but it was only garrisoned at the time by 33 women, all the males having taken the field with their lord, Hwgan, Prince of Brecknock. It was afterwards dismantled to prevent it falling into the hands of Owain Glyndwr.

From here the road winds at the foot of Mynydd y Troed to Talgarth, 3 m. (Rte. 16), and joins the Brecon and Hay road.]

From Glanusk the road runs at the base of the Myarth, upon which is an old British encampment. On the other side of the hill overlooking the beautiful defile of the Usk is **Gliffaes** (W. H. West, Esq.). At the foot of the Bwlch mountain a road to l. leads to **Llangynider,** a small but beautifully situated village, in the neighbourhood of which are some of the finest bits of scenery in S. Wales, particularly at **Dyffryn Crownant** and Buckland Mill (Rte. 9).

The road now rises, and winds considerably, until at 28 m. it reaches the summit of the **Bwlch** Pass, and descends the slope of Mynydd Buckland into the Vale of Brecon. Looking towards Crickhowel the view is almost grand; on the l. are the enormous mass of Penallt Mawr, Pencareg Calch, and the Daren, with the Sugar Loaf ending the view, while the rt. is occupied by the Myarth in the foreground, and the long ridges of the Llangynider and Llangattoc mountains behind. Here the traveller, looking at his map, becomes aware that he has crossed a great mountain ridge, extending N.E. and S.W., from the S. side of which rise most of the streams of Monmouth and Glamorgan, though the main rivers of the Wye and the Usk rise beyond it, and traverse it by the two deep valleys of Builth and Crickhowel, upon which therefore the Norman castles were thickly planted, as were, on even higher summits, those of the earlier Welsh. The great valley N., and at the foot of the scarp, is that of the Upper Wye and Upper Usk, whose courses are marked by the towns of Hay on the one and Brecon on the other, with Talgarth between them. The traveller who visits Breconshire, will find his account in mastering this piece of Welsh geography.

There is a fine view, from the other side of the Bwlch, of **Llangorse** Lake, or Llyn Safaddan, to which a road leads on rt. from the turnpike, passing l. the ruins of **Blaen-Lyfni Castle,** supposed to have been the residence of Hwgan, Prince of Brecknock, in the 10th centy., and fortified by the Normans in order to guard the important pass of Bwlch. About 1321 Blanlyfni Castle fell into the hands of Peter de Montfort. In Leland's time the castle was deserted and decaying, as was also "the borough town," which adjoined it. The lake, which lies 2 m. to the rt., is about 5 m. in circumference, and abounds with most beautiful scenery, although of rather a melancholy character. The river Llunwy or Lleveny passes through it, and runs north to join the Wye. It ranks as the second lake in Wales, after Bala. In 1235 the monks of Brecon obtained permission from the Priory of Llanthony to fish in it 3 days a week and daily in Lent, provided they used only one boat. A tradition of a submerged city, to be seen at times below the waves, is attached to it.

"Structuras ædificii
Sæpe videbis inibi
Sub lacu; cum sit gelidus
Mirus auditur sonitus."

Another legend about it is that on

the coming of the rightful prince of the land the birds about the lake will recognise him by singing.

This lake is much frequented for the sake of its perch and pike-fishing, and in winter for its wild-fowl shooting.

In 1869 a "crannoge" was discovered off the island here by the Rev. E. N. Dumbleton, M.A.

On the l. bank is **Treberfedd,** the seat of R. Raikes, Esq., and the beautiful little church of **Llangasty Tal-y-Llyn,** restored in very good taste. It is dedicated to St. Gastyn, the tutor of Cynog, son of Brechan. It possesses a fine peal of bells, which have a peculiarly charming effect when heard from the lake.

The road at the E. of the lake passes through the village of **Llangorse,** the church of which has a good cradle roof, to **Talgarth,** 8 m. from Bwlch.

The tourist can, if he chooses, proceed from Llangorse Lake direct to Hereford or Brecon, by rail, from Tal-y-Llyn Junct. (Rte 9), near Llangorse village.]

Descending the Bwlch Hill to Brecon, a fine view is gained on l. of **Buckland** (J. P. Gwynne-Holford, Esq.); Talybont village and *stat.* (from whence the traveller can proceed to Merthy, Rte. 9); and on rt. of the latter, the ch. of Llansaintfread (Rte. 9), close to which the road passes over the Merthyr and Brecon rly, which is seen in the distance on l. ascending the lovely valley of **Glyn Collwng.**

33 m. **Llanhamlach** Church, shaded by magnificent yews, and close by *Peterstone,* the property of Sir J. R. Bailey, Bart.

At Manest Court, on rt., is **Ty-iltid,** the remains of a "Kistvaen" of prehistoric times.

35 m. l. The Usk is here crosssed by 2 bridges, one carrying the road which leads from Brecon to Talybont and Crickhowel, and the other the Brecon and Pontypool Canal.

1 m. l. are **Llanfrynach** Church, and **Maesderwen** (the seat of William De Winton, Esq.). A Roman villa was discovered near Llanfrynach.

35½ m. l. **Dinas** (John Lloyd, Esq.), charmingly placed in a bank of wood, below which is the race-course.

The approach to ♁ **Brecon,** 37 m. is extremely pretty. On rt., at the entrance of the town, are the stat. and the Barracks. Brecon, called by the natives Aberhonddu, is one of the most picturesque and beautifully situated towns in the principality; it is seated on the Usk at the point where two smaller streams, the Honddu and Tarel, pour into it, and the wide amphitheatre of hills and mountains around, broken in outline by the convergence of so many valleys opening towards this centre, is strikingly picturesque. The main feature in this panorama is represented by the twin peaks of the Beacons, or Vans (Rte. 9), the most elevated mountains in S. Wales, rising in great sublimity about 5 m. to the S. of the town, to a height of 2910 ft. These peaks are called by the Welsh "Arthur's Chair."

A **bridge** of 7 arches over the Usk connects the town with the suburb of Llanfaes on its S. side. There are 3 principal streets, leading respectively to Abergavenny, Caermarthen, and Hay, the latter being called the Struet. The **Castle** Hotel occupies the site of the ancient fortress, by which the Norman, Bernard Newmarch, in the reign of Rufus, secured the possessions, which he had gained by his sword, from the Welsh prince of Brecknock. The castle contained a considerable area, with two watchtowers at each angle. At the S. angle on an elevated mound is the keep, or Ely Tower, where Morton, Bishop of

Ely, plotted with the Duke of Buckingham against Richard III. Its form was an oblong parallelogram, 100 yards long by 80 wide. The castle is built out of the ruins of the old Roman tower situated 3 m. higher up the Usk, and Newmarch made this lordship his residence, and the capital of his march. It afterwards belonged to the great baronial families of Braose and Bohun Earl of Hereford. It stands on an eminence in an angle between the rivers Honddu and Usk; and the waters of the Honddu appear to have been carried round it to fill the moat. The scanty ruins remaining consist of 2 square towers in the garden of the hotel, not older than the time of Edward III., and of a lofty mound, on which stood the keep.

Within the walls of this castle, the union of the rival houses of York and Lancaster, and the scheme for dethroning Crookback Richard, and inviting Henry VII. to take his place, were concocted between Stafford Duke of Buckingham, its owner, and Morton Bishop of Ely, committed as a prisoner to his care by Richard. The result of the conference held in the Ely Tower of Brecknock Castle was, that the bishop was allowed to escape to Henry of Richmond, in Brittany, and that the duke lost his head at Salisbury.

The mound, on which the keep stood, is enclosed within a garden, now separated by the road from the rest of the ruins. The greater part of the castle was pulled down at the Great Rebellion by the townspeople, to prevent its being fortified or garrisoned by either of the contending parties, and thus involving the place in the miseries of a siege.

On a height a little to the N. of the castle, on the rt. bank of the Honddu, stands the **Priory Ch.** of **St. John**, originally the chapel of the Priory, founded in the reign of Henry I. by Bernard Newmarch, seized with compunction for the deeds of violence by which he had obtained his possessions, and willing to disgorge a part of his booty to the Church, in the hope of securing peace to his soul after death. By the management of the baron's confessor, a monk of Battle in Sussex, the priory of Brecon was made dependent on that abbey. But little of the original edifice can be detected in the existing church, a large cruciform structure, partly shrouded with ivy, and shaded by venerable yew-trees. The whole building has been well restored in two instalments, so to speak; the latter completed in the present year by *Sir G. G. Scott*, whose report to the Restoration Committee remarks that "stern and massive as is the external form of this ch., and moderate as is the amount even of internal ornament, the *quality* of the architecture is as good, as well studied, and as refined as could be found in any building of the period in this, or perhaps in any other country." The chancel and transepts are chiefly in the E. E. style, lighted at the E. end by 5 lancet windows. "It was doubtless commenced at the close of the 11th centy.; but probably the nave might not have been completed till towards the middle of the 12th. The choir, transepts, and presbytery, rebuilt during the 13th and the 14th centy., gradually transformed the Norm. nave into a Dec. building." — *E. A. F.* A wooden screen separates the choir from the chancel. The eastern portions, including chancel, transept, and central tower, are of the earlier style of Pointed architecture, but in its more advanced form (date 1220 to 1230). The tower is singularly massive, reminding the visitor strongly of the tower of Llanbadarn Vawr, near Aberystwith (Rte. 18), and of other fortress-like towers of churches in S. Wales. The S. transept was anciently

called by the Welsh "the Chapel of the Red Men;" meaning the Normans, for whose use it was appropriated, while the Welsh occupied the other side. The chancel is of 4 bays in length, and was meant to be vaulted, to judge from the vaulting-shafts. The side bays contained fine triplets, and the E. end a window of 5 lancet lights of great depth. On each side of the chancel were originally two small chapels opening into each transept, which at a later period were considerably altered, those on the N. being thrown into one large chapel, whilst on the S. one chapel disappeared, and the other was altered, and a vestry added to its E. end. The latest restoration has embraced the vaulting of the chancel, the windows of the N. chapel, and the bringing both the transept roofs to the original pitch. There is a curious Norm. font, decorated with monsters' heads. In the restoration remains of sedilia and a triple piscina (on a large scale) were discovered. There are several monumental effigies of interest: the most remarkable representing the Crucifixion, the Virgin, and St. John, with angels in the angles above. Below are 4 kneeling figures of the persons in whose memory the stone was placed.

Portions still remain of the Priory walls and of an embattled gateway. The **Priory House**, contiguous to the churchyard, belongs to the Marquis Camden. King Charles I., a fugitive after the fatal battle of Naseby, was received here by Sir Herbert Price, on the 5th of August, 1645; and George IV. passed a night here in 1821, after his return from Ireland.

The Priory **Wood** is a lofty grove, covering the steep slope at whose base runs the Honddu. There are pleasant walks beneath the shade of the fine trees and along the waterside; and another promenade, called the **Captain's Walk**, along the banks of the Usk, under the old town walls.

St. Mary's Church is situated in the very heart of the town, and was enlarged in 1858. It was originally a Norman building, the traces of which are visible only in the N. aisle, but it appears to have been enlarged about the 14th centy. The tower is a good Perp. "of the Somersetshire type, about 90 ft. in height, and containing a peal of 8 bells."

The **College of Christchurch**, before the Reformation a convent of friar-preachers, was converted into a seat of learning, under a dean (the Bishop of St. David's) and 19 prebendaries, in the reign of Henry VIII., and is the oldest grammar-school Foundation in Wales. The charter of Henry VIII. assigns as its intent and purpose the remedy of the ignorance of the English language among the inhabitants of S. Wales. As a school, the Brecon College is taking a high stand amongst educational establishments, and a handsome range of buildings has been erected for the necessary accommodation.

The chapel of the college, in the suburb of Llanfaes, a small ancient building of E. E. style, but repaired and modernised soon after the Restoration, contains an antique stone cross, brought from the Aubrey Chapel, which stood close at hand, and was attached to the ancient church of St. Nicholas, destroyed by the Parliamentary Commissioners in the Civil War; the monuments of Bishop Bull and of several other bishops of St. David's, who lie buried here (a fact which might be urged as a plea for the founding of a see of Brecon with the priory church as its cathedral), together with one of Richard Lacy and his wife, bearing their recumbent effigies in the costume of the time of James II.

St. David's Church, in the district of Llanfaes, fell down in 1852, but was rebuilt in the Early Pointed style in 1859. The cemetery is remarkably pretty, and commands fine views.

In 1755 Mrs. Siddons was born here, at the Shoulder of Mutton, a public-house in High Street, now dignified by the name of "The Siddons' Wine Vaults," while her parents were on a professional tour.

The trade of Brecon consists in wood, leather, and coal, and is assisted by a canal to Abergavenny and Newport. The town has been much benefited by the 2 rlys. which run into it, and place it in direct communication with London and the North, and the South Wales coal-basin to Merthyr and Neath. The ascent of the Beacons occupies about 3 hrs. (Rte. 9).

ROUTE 13.

FROM BRECON TO NEATH, BY DEVYNNOCK.

(*Neath and Brecon Railway*).

This line, opened in 1868, offers some of the most beautiful scenery in the Principality, in the valley of the upper Usk, and amidst the ranges of the Breconshire and Caermarthenshire Beacons.

The rly. follows pretty closely the course of the Usk, having on l. the suburb of Llanfaes and the County Gaol, severed by Glyn Tarel, up which winds the road to Merthyr. A little way up is *Ffrwd-grech* (the heirs of Mrs. Pearce), in whose grounds is the very pretty little waterfall of Rhydgoch.

2 m. **Llanspyddid Church**, Early Dec., and surrounded by venerable yew-trees. The name is a corruption of "Llan-y-Spitty," from a "Hospitium" supported here by Malvern Priory. In the churchyard is a tomb traditionally said to belong to Brychan Breichiniog. To the rt. 1 m. is *Pennoyre*, the handsome seat of the representative of the late Sir Anthony Cleasby, a Baron of the Exchequer. The road up to it runs between two hills, each with its camp. On **Fenniwood** is one, said to occupy the site of a British city, afterwards appropriated by the Romans. At **Pen-y-crug**, to the N., is a strong oval camp defended by a triple intrenchment, and another, less interesting, on a hill opposite, called "Slwch," with a twofold rampart. Gold and silver coins of the time of Nero have been found here.

3½ m. on the l. bank of the Usk, at the confluence of the Yscir, is **Aberyscir Church**, planted round with yew, opposite to which, on the l. bank of the Yscir, near its junction with the Usk, and N.W. of Brecon, is the **Gaer**, a rectangular camp, supposed to be identical with Bannium, or Gaer Bènni, a British town, which preceded Brecknock, and was adopted as a station by the Roman general Ostorius Scapula. The Norman conqueror of Brecknock transferred its stones to build his castle lower down the Usk, where the county town now stands. Several ramparts still exist; and the foundations of walls in places from 3 to 6 ft. high, partly overgrown with underwood, have withstood the depredations of man

and the wastes of the elements. From hence a Roman road leads N. past the megalith called **Maen-y-morwynion** (the Maiden Stone), with sculptured figures still in good preservation, in reality a monument to a Roman legionary and his wife; and still further N. a Maenhir—a memorial connected with Celtic traditions. From Bannium the Sarn Helan ran viâ Builth Rhayader and Montgomeryshire to Chester, and the Via Julia by 3 branches, all uniting at different points with the great Julian trunk road, which passed westward by Caerwent, Caerleon, Cardiff, and Carmarthen, to St. Davids.

4½ m. **Aberbrân** Stat., at the confluence of the Brân with the Usk. On the rt. bank, a little further on, is the little church of **Capel Bettws**, and **Penpont** (Penry Williams, Esq.), a modern Italian house, in a lovely park along the Usk, and close to the "Pont," whence it takes its name; and ½ m. beyond is **Abercamlais** (Archdeacon Garnon Williams). Near this is the parish of Trallong, in which was found the famous Ogham bilingual stone, with the inscription, "Cunocenni filius Cunoceni jacit hic;" where the Ogham letters give the same as the Roman. The celebrated Owain Iolo Goch is said to have been buried in a field in this parish.

At Senni Bridge the line, leaving on rt. **Glanusk** (Rev. F. Hort), turns to the l. up the valley of the Senni to 8½ m. **Devynnock** Stat., a large village overlooking the Senni. Into the tower of the church is built an inscribed stone, and near the village upon the Ystradgynlais road, is an early British circle, called the "Cerrig Duon," or Black Stones. In the reigns of Henry VII. and Elizabeth, the great and little forests of Devynnock, which in Norman times had involved the superintendence of a constable, were of sufficient importance for "the deer, woods, underwoods and timber-trees to be reserved" by an Act of Parliament. There is now not a tree to be seen, and the fences are of stone.

Close to Pont Senni is a farmhouse, which bears the name of **Castell Ddu**, or Black Castle, from a fortress no longer existing, where formerly the Constable of the surrounding forest resided.

[From hence an excursion can be made, still up the valley of the Usk, to Trecastle and Llandovery, by the former mail road from London to Caermarthen. Beyond Glan Usk the road crosses the Usk by a bridge of one bold arch, much resembling Pontypridd (Rte. 15), and then gradually ascends the hill on the l. bank to

3 m. **Trecastle**, a large village in the parish of **Llywel**, having on rt., and to the N. of the turnpike-road, the mound and rather extensive earthwork of the castle, which was founded by Bernard Newmarch. The road and the river, after 38 m. of company, now separate, the latter, now a mere brook, rising about 6 m. S.W., and within ½ m. of **Llyn-y-fan-fawr**, a deep, fishless, mountain tarn, seated under the highest peak of the **Caermarthenshire Beacon**, or Van, also sometimes called the Black mountain. This mountain, a very picturesque object, is cleft in two by a deep and narrow fissure, through which runs the boundary line of the county. The W. summit lies in Caermarthenshire, and the E., or Trecastle Beacon, in Breconshire, rising 2596 ft. above the sea-level.

A view more extended and interesting than any in Wales, with the exception of that from Snowdon, may be obtained from this mountain upon a clear day. There is abundance of fish in the lesser lake, but anglers who wish to try it must take tents,

provisions, and all other accommodation with them.

4 m. rt. **Llywel Church** (restored), with a fine old tower. Between Llywel and Trecastle once existed a considerable lake, over which the Gwyns, who resided at Trecastle in great splendour, were rowed to ch. at the former place in an awned barge.—*Wood's* 'Rivers.'

The road here slowly ascends the back of a second escarpment, dividing the counties of Brecon and Caermarthen, and here called *Mynydd Bwlch-y-groes;* it then winds past **Horeb Chapel,** round the base of the Black Mountain, through the romantic glen of **Cwmdwr,** and descends to the side of a small stream, the Gwydderig, a tributary of the Towey.

7 m. **Halfway.** On l. is a small **obelisk,** erected to commemorate the turn-over and destruction of the mail-coach over a steep of 130 ft., the driver and passengers escaping unhurt.

After passing **Velindre** (E. Jones, Esq.) the valley expands, and in the midst of meadows that vie with lawns in softness and hue, the road approaches ☩ **Llandovery,** 12 m. (Rte. 19).]

From Devynnock the rly. ascends the valley of the **Treweren** by a very steep gradient, and near its head crosses the shoulder of the mountain into the head of the Croi valley, then under the steep slopes of the Fan Gehirach (2382 ft.), where it crosses the watershed of the Tawe and its tributaries. A wilder or more desolate scene can scarcely be imagined. Passing rt. the little village and ch. of **Capel Colbren** at the head of Glyn Tawe, the train arrives at 19 m. **Penwylt** Stat., built of the limestone of the neighbouring hills, and affording an easy mode of examining the shells and fossils imbedded therein. The tourist should get out here for the purpose of visiting the waterfall of **Scwd Hen Rhyd,** nearly 3 m. to the S. The mountain views on each side are remarkably fine, the approximate height of this level above the sea being 1250 ft. The fall, one of the finest in S. Wales, occurs a little to the W. of the village of **Capel Colbren.** Here the Llech tumbles over the rock at a height of 100 ft., allowing the visitor to pass dryshod under the fall. Sir W. Logan discovered some erect fossil coal trees, of the class named Sigillaria, in the bed of the river. In the primitive little church of Capel Colbren is a curious old tombstone, and close by are remains of a Roman road. From hence the **Cribarth** mountain forms a striking object in the scenery.

23 m. **Onllwyn** Stat. If the tourist comes from Neath, this will be the best stat. from which to visit the waterfall. Here are ironworks seated on the anthracite veins of coal.

From hence, too, the tourist may walk through the desolate region of the **Banwen,** and explore the Pyrddin river, with its falls (Rte. 10).

The rly. here descends the valley of the Dulais, to

27½ m. **Crinant** Stat.

33 m. Neath Junct. (Rte 1).

ROUTE 14.

FROM CARDIFF TO RHYMNEY, BY CAERPHILLY.

Quitting *Cardiff* from the Rhymney Stat. in Crockherbtown, the line soon passes, l., **Llandaff,** and going off to the right, after passing **Llanishen** Stat. reaches the cross valley to Caerphilly, whence there is a magnificent view looking up the Taff vale towards Pontypridd and the Rhondda Mountains.

On l. is **Dyffryn Erw** (E. Williams, Esq.).

10 m. ♁ **Caerphilly,** situated at the very eastern edge of Glamorganshire, behind a ridge of hills which on the S. separate it from Cardiff (7 m.), and on the W. from the Taff vale. To the former town there is a direct road over the limestone hills and past *New House.* The village itself is poor and straggling, and the houses approach rather near to the walls of the old **Castle,** which is the most extensive as well as one of the most interesting ruins of a feudal fortress to be met with in the country, though on the whole, from its level position and the want of vegetation, less fitted to employ the pencil of the artist than the pen of the antiquary.

It has not been the scene of any great historical event. It was in its origin a purely military work, and ceased to be of importance as such upon the settlement of the Principality by Edward I.

The castle is described by Leland and others as standing on marshy ground, partly surrounded by a mere or lake. At present its walls are washed on the S. and S.E. sides by Nant-y-Gledyr, a tributary of the Rhymney; but there is evidence that anciently its waters were not merely employed to fill the two moats which surrounded the fortress, but were also, as at Kenilworth, spread over a considerable tract by damming them up, thereby increasing the strength of the place and the difficulty of approaching it. The main entrance on the E. side of the castle was by a raised causeway (now converted into a garden) and pier of masonry, detached in the middle of the moat, the gaps on each side of the pier being crossed by drawbridges. The gatehouse, flanked by two turrets and surmounted by a tower 60 ft. high, was guarded by portcullis and stockades, and protected by loopholes in the turret walls. On the lower story are remains of a small fireplace and oven, apparently for heating pitch, lead, &c., for the annoyance of besiegers; here also was the apparatus for raising the drawbridge. This part of the moat is now generally dry, owing to the stream having been turned away from it. There is a postern gate to the rt. of the gatehouse. The *usual entrance* for visitors is on the S. side of the castle opposite the *tête-de-pont.* It will be observed that an abyss or chasm about 29 ft. deep and 5 wide separates the gatehouse from the long wall or curtain stretching N. from it on the rt. This is called in some ancient accounts the "North marish ground." By help of this gap and of a wall (now levelled with the earth) carried from the gatehouse to the inner moat, this long rampart and outwork was divided from the rest of the edifice, so that, even if it were taken, the body of the place would be still safe and cut off from it. The communication between it and the gatehouse was kept up by drawbridges or planks of wood easily removed. This curtain, flanked towards the moat by 3 buttress-towers, stretches N. 360 ft.; a gallery of wood ran along behind it, allowing the gar-

rison to man the defences, and it terminated in another postern, flanked by 2 buttress-towers and provided with portcullis and drawbridge. This long curtain at present looks unfinished, but it was never intended for more than an outwork; and when the castle was in a state of defence, the ground behind it was flooded and converted into a lake. The opposite and corresponding curtain or wing extended to the dam and sluices, by which the river was arrested, so as to form this inundation. This dam, being the keystone of the water defences, was strongly guarded by flanking towers on each side and by a *tête-de-pont* on the opposite side of the stream. Those who dismantled this castle let out the waters of the lake, by blowing up a large part of this curtain and wall, 15 ft. thick, including 2 buttress-towers; the rivulet now flows through the gap, being crossed by a rude wooden bridge, which rests on one of the broken fragments of masonry, serving instead of a pier.

To return to the great gatehouse. Standing within its portal on the N. are the foundations of the wall, which, with the chasm before mentioned, separated the N. curtain from the body of the place; on the S., the ruined lower story of the castle mill, set in motion by a rivulet from the stream; and W. the quadrangular body of the castle itself. It was also insulated by a moat, now dried up and covered with greensward, except where encumbered by ruins. It was surrounded by an outer wall with gates on the E. and W. sides, approached by drawbridges, within which stood lofty gatehouses and the chief buildings of the place, overlooking the outwork and leaving narrow terraces between. The outer gate on the E. side has been crushed by the ruins of the inner gatehouse, which has been separated by an explosion in two parts—one half remaining upright and tolerably perfect, while the other has fallen in fragments towards the moat. It was originally provided with gates, portcullis, stockades, and holes in its roof for pouring hot metal or pitch on the heads of assailants, and on the first floor is a large room with a wide fireplace. Passing through this gatehouse, the visitor enters the inner court or bailey of the castle, which in its original state must have been very imposing. In front rises the western gatehouse, tolerably perfect; on the l. is the **Great Hall,** having rich windows and a doorway with ogee-shaped arches and decorated ball-flower ornaments in the mouldings; the corbels which support its wooden roof are of triple-clustered columns. A close examination of the walls, however, leads to the impression that there was an earlier roof before that which these corbels supported. The present or third roof was placed on them anew by the Marquis of Bute, in the year 1871, when he entertained here the Cambrian archæologists. E. of the hall is the chapel. From the side of the hall, opposite the fireplace, proceeds a wide passage slanting downwards to the moat, here of great breadth, and proved by the mark on the walls to have been about 12 ft. deep. The passage is curiously vaulted by a series of arches hanging one below the other like inverted steps: at its lower entrance was a place for storing boats. The moat or lake is now fine green-sward. Between the E. gatehouse and the hall are the offices: the kitchen, called the Mint, and provided with fireplaces with thick walls, had once a vaulted roof. There is great difficulty in identifying the rest of the offices; one is provided with an oven and open tank. The inner bailey was defended at the angles by 4 lofty and very thick bastion-towers,

upon which the chief violence of the demolishers of the castle has been expended, so that they have all been more or less overthrown. One of these in the S.E. corner, on your l. hand as the inner court is entered, is the **leaning tower**, 80 ft. high, and projecting 9 ft. over its base. It must have been mined and blown up with gunpowder; but the cylinder of masonry, 10 ft. thick, was so solid, that even its parapet remains perfect; and although it is split in twain by the explosion, it has only slit downwards, sinking for some depth into the earth and leaning over: the rest of the tower, towards the court, has been broken in pieces. At the W. end of the hall are the state apartments. Galleries in the thickness of the wall, looped towards the outside, run round a part of the castle, and are still accessible, though the removal of every fragment of iron and most of the freestone has led to the demolition of many staircases, and the sills, mouldings, &c., of the doors and windows throughout the building. On the W. side of this bailey rises the W. gatehouse, having on rt. an apsidal chamber with a pointed roof. The gatehouse conducts to the back entrance of the castle, which was strongly defended by an outer gatehouse. The side walls of this latter are now broken through, and it is approached by a drawbridge over the moat, the hollow pier for sustaining which remains. This led to the hornwork, an irregular polygon of earth. A dam or ridge of earth extended from this hornwork along the N. side of the castle and separated the moat from the lake beyond it; the water was admitted from the moat into the pond through a sluice in this dam. In addition to these works, composing the fortifications of the ancient castle, there rises on the N.W. angle, detached therefrom, an eminence crowned with a more modern fort or redoubt, evidently thrown up after the discovery of gunpowder, probably during the wars of the Great Rebellion, to which period the blowing up of the towers may be assigned. Its shape is an irregular quadrangle, with rude bastions at the 4 corners surrounded by a fosse.

The Castle of Senghenydd, probably of very rude structure, may have stood on or close to this site; but the existing building may be safely attributed to Gilbert de Clare and to the year 1270 or thereabouts. The W. gatehouse, however, is said to be later, and perhaps the whole exterior line of defence to the E.

The Castle was never the residence of any great baronial family, though its name often occurs in connection with the unhappy race of Despencer. It now belongs to Lord Bute.

Near Caerphilly, and partially built of its materials, is the *Van*, long the seat of the ancient Glamorgan family of Lewis, but which passed out of the male line by an heiress, to the Earls of Plymouth, and from them again through an heiress to Lord Windsor.

1 m. from Caerphilly is **Pwl-y-pant**, the picturesque cottage of the late W. Williams, Esq.

15 m. **Ystrad** Stat. The vale of the Rhymney here narrows considerably, and presents a pleasing contrast to the broad amphitheatre of hills in which the castle of Caerphilly is situated. Ystrad **Church**, on rt., is a pretty building, in good taste, partly erected by the late Rev. Geo. Thomas, whose residence—the **Court**—is but a short distance on the rt.

16 m. Hengoed Junct. with the Great Western Rly. (Rte. 10), which is carried across the vale by a lofty viaduct, the tall narrow arches forming a prominent feature in the scenery.

On the opposite side of the valley, running parallel, is the Newport and Brecon Rly. (Rte. 9.)

17½ m. **Pengam** Stat. Immediately on W. are the Gelligaer schools and chapel.

19 m. **Bargoed** Stat. The Newport and Brecon Rly. here crosses the Rhymney Rly. on its way up the Bargoed Rhymney valley to Dowlais.

21 m. **Tir Phil** Stat. Here are large coke ovens, and on the opposite side of the valley is the colliery of New Tredegar.

23½ m. **Pontlottyn** Stat., a suburb of Rhymney.

24½ m. **Rhymney Iron Works** (*Inn:* Castle), the property of a joint-stock company, who have endeavoured in their construction to engraft some fine art even upon iron-works, the furnaces being built in a massive Egyptian form. From hence the traveller may proceed to Merthyr by road or may join the London and North-Western Rly. at **Nantybwch** Stat. (Rte. 11.)

ROUTE 15.

CARDIFF TO MERTHYR, BY PONT-Y-PRIDD.

(Taff Vale Railway.)

Cardiff (Rte. 1). The terminus of the Taff Vale Railway is situated in Crockherbtown, close to the Newport Road, but the trains run and the line is measured from the Docks, 1¼ m. distant. It was opened in 1841, and was constructed under considerable engineering difficulties, overcome with great skill by the late George Bush, Esq., engineer to the Company.

The Taff and its tributary valleys include some of the finest scenery in S. Wales, and much that for sunny, smiling beauty is unsurpassed in Britain. The Taff owes its charm to the extremely unequal breadth of its valley, and to its sudden and unexpected windings. The Rly. has several sharp curves, some steep gradients, and at one point a considerable incline, and a tunnel upon its course. The canal between Cardiff and Merthyr cost 100,000*l.*, and was opened 1798. There are 40 locks upon it, and it rises nearly 600 feet.

4½ m. **Llandaff** Stat. (Rte. 1): on approaching which the lofty spire of the cathedral and the groves and summer-house in the Dean's garden are seen about 1 m. on the l., with the neat little church of Radyr.

A little beyond the stat. is the junction of the tidal line, which runs down to the harbour and docks of **Penarth**, joining the Ely Valley Rly.

The whole of this part of the line is upon a loose drift of sand and large stones plentifully spread over the valley of the Taff. On the rt. is the **Heath** (G. Thomas, Esq.).

½ m. further on the rt. is a fine wooded bank, at the base of which sweeps the river supplying **Melingriffith** Tin-plate Works.

6½ m. The **Pentyrch Works** stand just within the picturesque pass of Castell Coch, overshadowed on the l. by the Lower and immediately beyond the Great Garth, 981 ft. above the sea. To the rt. of the stat. is **Greenmeadow** (H. Lewis, Esq.), a branch of the Lewises of the Van, an ancient Glamorganshire family, tracing back through Ivor Bach of Castell Coch to Gwaethfoed, Lord of Cardigan and Cibwyr in the 10th centy. At the Pentyrch Ironworks the iron is manufactured to supply the tin-plate works of Melingriffith.

The situation of **Castell Coch**, so called from the red tint of the material with which it is built, is admirable, overhanging the pass on a precipitous escarpment of mountain-limestone. Facing the Taff, and commanding a view of the Channel beyond Cardiff, it was a most important post. Its plan was that of a triangle, a round tower at each angle, of which the one on the N.W. is in the best preservation. In style it is probably E.E., about the reign of Henry III. It was the key of the upper country. "A beacon-fire upon the headland of Penarth, answered here and on the opposite Garth, would be repeated from the summits of the distant mountains of Brecon and Caermarthen, and would at once spread the tidings of invasion over the whole of the southern coast."—*G. C.* Castell Coch is supposed to be the site of Ivor Bach's original castle.

Through this pass Owain Glyndwr is supposed to have descended when he burnt the episcopal palace of Llandaff, and ravaged Cardiff.

"The vale of Tâf was necessarily the scene of many of the great transactions of war, as it now is of those of peace, between England and S. Wales, and the pass and fortress of Castell Coch form the boundary and key between the country of the mountain and the plain. From hence, in the words of a yet extant triad, may be seen the length and breadth of 'that beautiful country, the land of the courteous and gentle people, where the wives are honoured and the walls white.' Up this pass sped that Saxon band who, fearing not God nor regarding man, placed the celestial crown of martyrdom upon the temples of the maid of royal birth. Here stood 'Aneurin of the flowing eulogy, chief of Bards,' and poured forth his animating strains, while his half-clad and ill-armed countrymen waged bloody but unsuccessful war against the iron-clad bands of the invader."—*Westm. Review.*

It was from hence that issued Ivor Bach (Little Ivor), upon that desperate raid on Cardiff which nearly resulted in the wresting of the country from the hands of the Norman spoilers. A curious belief obtains amongst the peasantry of the neighbourhood, that a huge chest, filled with treasure and guarded by gigantic ravens, is here hidden. The Castle belonged to the great family of Clare, and is now the property of the Marquis of Bute, who has caused it to be restored, in strict accordance with what has been ascertained of its original structure, and it is now habitable.

7 m. Walnut Tree Bridge Junct., whence the Rhymney Rly. takes its departure on the rt. to Caerphilly and Rhymney (Rte. 14).

8 m. l. is **Taff's Well**, so called from a tepid medicinal spring which bubbles up in the bed of the river, and which is constantly employed

as a bath for rheumatic patients. It is about 4 ft. in diameter, and has a wall around it 2 ft. high. To the W. the coal-measure sandstones of the Garth Hill, and on the E. the corresponding height of Craig-yr-Alt, are well seen.

A road runs hence, on rt., to Caerphilly, 4 m. The line is now completely within the coal-field, symptoms of which begin to be apparent everywhere in the number of collieries and levels in the hill-sides. The curves are very sharp, and in some places the line runs along a narrow shelf on the mountain-side 100 feet above the river.

12 m. Treforest Junct., opposite which, on l., is the residence of T. Crawshay, Esq., and on the rt. are his tin-plate works and the pretty little church of Glyn Taff.

[A branch of 10 m. runs in here from Llantrissant and Cowbridge (Rte. 1), accommodating an out-of-the-way district of the S. Wales coal-fields.

It passes the mining village of **Llantwit** (Stat.), and then across elevated ground to (6 m.) Llantrissant, soon after which it crosses the Gt. Western at Llantrissant Junct.]

ŧ **Pontypridd**, 13 m., has become a considerable place, the rising prosperity of which is due to the number of collieries opened in the neighbourhood and in the Rhondda valley, which joins the Taff Vale on the l. Not far from the Stat. is the well-known bridge of Pontypridd (or Bridge of the earthen Hut), "a single arch spanning the Taff, 140 ft. span, and 35 ft. height, completed 1755 by a self-taught country mason, William Edwards, whose history is related at length in the 'Pursuit of Knowledge,' v. ii. p. 353. He undertook, in 1746, at the age of 27, to build a bridge over the Taff, at a spot where the river is broad and its banks low, and completed a very light structure in three arches, giving security that it should stand for 7 yrs. Within 3 yrs., however, a flood occurred of extraordinary height, which carried down trees, hay, &c., before it in such quantities that they were caught by the piers and formed a dam, behind which the water accumulated to such a height that the bridge at last gave way under its pressure. Edwards then conceived the bold design of spanning the river with a single arch of the present dimensions (the segment of a circle of 170 ft. diameter), and completed it. But the lowness of the approaches and the want of natural abutments of firm rock rendered it necessary to load the spring of the arch on either side with a great mass of masonry, and before the parapets were finished, the pressure on the haunches drove up the crown of the arch and it fell in. Unshaken in courage, he renewed the attempt upon the same scale, but lightened the masonry by perforating it with 3 cylindrical tunnels, 9, 6, and 3 ft. in diameter, an anticipation of the principle of our tubular bridges. This expedient succeeded. The bridge has stood unshaken since 1755, and the cylindrical apertures have given an air of great lightness and elegance to the structure.

The Rialto at Venice is 98 ft. in span; one of the arches of the Roman bridge of Narni is 142 ft.; and an old bridge over the Allier, in the Department of Haute Loire in France, 181 ft. But in 1750 no arch in England had much more than half the intended span of Pontypridd, and the existence of works of which the architect could never have heard, detracts nothing from the boldness of his undertaking. His success secured to him high reputation and much employment during the remainder of his life, and he brought up one of his sons in the same pro-

fession; indeed, a large proportion of the best and handsomest bridges in Wales were constructed in later years by the two Edwardses, father and son. Owing to its extreme steepness, however, as well as narrowness, it is almost impracticable for carriages, so that another bridge was made near it in 1857, to the great detriment of the picturesqueness of the first. Underneath the bridge Echo is said to repeat a word ninefold. On an eminence facing the river, stands the **Maen Chwyf,** or rocking-stone, "where the bards and minstrels from time immemorial occasionally congregate in order to confer the different degrees of bardism on aspiring candidates." There are at Pontypridd large chain and cable works, belonging to Messrs. Brown and Lenox, where the chain-work at Brighton pier was fabricated. The whole of the neighbourhood is very pretty, and a day may be well spent in rambling over the hills that surround it.

[A beautiful excursion may be made up the valley of the **Rhondda,** the largest of the Taff's tributaries, which contains some of the most charming scenery in S. Wales. Of late years, however, the seclusion and romance of the vale have been much broken by the search after its mineral treasures, and a rly. traverses it up to the very head.

2 m. **Hafod** Stat. Here are some rapids, which, when the river is at all full, are worth stopping to look at.

3½ m. **Porth** Stat. Near this is **Cymmer;** a rather populous village, situated, as the name implies, at the confluence of the Rhondda Fach with the Rhondda Fawr. Cymmer will ever be remembered with grief and woe by hundreds in Wales, for it was the scene of one of the most widely-spread calamities that this district has ever known. On the morning of July 15th, 1856, 114 colliers were swept into eternity at one fell swoop by an explosion of firedamp in a pit belonging to Messrs. Insole. There was not a house in Cymmer that had not a corpse in it, and scarcely a married woman who was not made a widow by that terrible calamity. But, unfortunately, such occurrences are not uncommon in this neighbourhood, the explosion at *Ferndale* Colliery in 1868, in the Rhondda Fach, being even more destructive.

The pedestrian will do well to ascend the valley of the **Rhondda Fach** for about 2 m. and then cross the hill to the l. at **Pen Rhys**—so called because Rhys mustered his forces here prior to his defeat at Hirwain—and rejoin the road at Gelli-dawel.

4½ m. **Pandy** Stat.

8 m. **Ystrad** Stat.

Ystrad-y-Fodwg is a lonely and primitive little village, the only one in the whole vale, with a small church by the river-side. The valley is rather wider here, and there are a few good farms; the hills, however, become more precipitous and bold, particularly on the l. at Craig-yr-Afon and Craig-Ogwr, where there is a grand amphitheatre of mountain, as fine as anything in the scenery of the coal-basin. The tourist in the Rhondda valley and its surrounding hills should go provided with a full flask and sandwich-box.

The terminus of the branch is reached at 11 m. **Treherbert** Stat.

At **Cwmsaebraen** the glen is still wilder and narrower, and quite alpine in character. Here is a large colliery belonging to the Marquis of Bute, who owns almost the whole of the minerals underlying the valley, and derives a large revenue from the royalties of the various mines.

Ty-newydd, a little higher up, is an old Welsh farm-house, for many generations the residence of the family of Edwards, who was a farmer as well as bridge-builder, and whose present representative still holds it. The pedestrian can ascend the opposite mountain at Cwm Selsig and cross over into the defiles of Glyn Corrwg ; a difficult and fatiguing walk, and one not to be undertaken without the aid of an Ordnance map.

"Above Cwmsaebraen the glen becomes wilder and the road steeper and less cared for. The Rhondda sparkles beneath like a silver stream, and at the very head of the dingle the waterfalls can be discerned leaping over the rocks. Huge blocks of stone lie around in confusion, and it is evident that the traveller has left for a time the regions of civilisation and commerce and is fairly alone with nature. The aspect of this glorious scene must be strangely different in winter-time, and the cairns by the roadside are memorials of the severity of the weather, by which sundry poor wayfarers have lost their lives."—*G.P.B.*

From the top of the mountain a magnificent view is gained over the vale of Neath and Aberpergwm to the l., with Hirwain and the Aberdare valley to the rt. Far in the distance, range after range of hill rises up until the Beacons close the view, while just at the foot of the steep escarpment of Craig-y-Llyn, the lakes of Llyn Fawr and Llyn Fach snugly repose. The pedestrian can walk from here over **Bwlch-y-Lladron** (Robbers' Pass) to Aberdare, or clamber down the precipitous gullies of Craig-y-Llyn to Glyn Neath Stat. in the Vale of Neath (Rte. 10).]

16½ m. Aberdare Junct. Here the valley of the Cynon joins the Taff, and up it a branch-line and a branch-canal are carried, to Aberdare. The whole of this neighbourhood is exceedingly pretty. A pleasant walk of about 2½ m. may be had by ascending Craig-yr-efan on the rt., and from thence to Llanfabon, a small mountain village.

[Branch-line to Aberdare, 8 m.

2½ m. **Penrhiw Ceibr** Stat.

4 m. **Mountain-Ash** Stat., to the rt. of which rises the eminence of **Twyn-bryn-bychan,** from whence, on a fine day, the view extends from the Beacons on the N. to the Bristol Channel and Somerset hills on the S. Just below it, on the Taff Vale side, is **Daren-y-cig-fran,** the scene of a great landslip, which has left a precipitous scarp, and lies in broken heaps below. The scaur is crowned with beech- and oak-wood, and the view both up and down is wide and beautiful. For account of the Navigation and Duffryn Collieries, see Rte. 10. The line now runs at a little distance from, and parallel with, the Great Western Rlwy. (Rte. 10.)

4½ m. on rt. **Duffryn,** the seat of the Right Hon. Lord Aberdare.

6 m. **Treaman** Stat., near which is, to l., **Aberaman,** an Italian mansion, formerly belonging to Crawshay Bailey, Esq. On l. are Aberaman Ironworks, well known as the subject of an important litigation. The pedestrian may follow the course of the little river Amman, and cross over into the valley of the Rhondda Fach.

8 m. **Aberdare** Stat. (Rte. 10.)]

The line from Aberdare Junct. ascends a rather steep incline, and is then carried over the Taff on a stone viaduct built on a curve, the scenery on each side being of a wild and very picturesque character to

18 m. Quakers' Yard Junct.

with the Great Western Rly. The little village, so called from having been the site of a burying-place for the Society of Friends, is beautifully situated in a curve of the valley, shut in on all sides by hills. Near Quakers' Yard the Taff is joined by the Bargoed Taff from the E., and the waters of the Cynon on the W.

22¼ m. **Troed-y-rhiw** Stat. The valley here widens considerably, and, although its mountains are not less high, they are not seen to such advantage. On rt. of the Stat. are the *Plymouth* Ironworks, the property of the Plymouth Iron Company. They are neatly constructed and well arranged.

Passing under the viaduct of the Vale of Neath Rly., the train arrives at

24½ m. ♁ **Merthyr Tydfil** (Rte. 9).

"The ancient history of the Merthyr district gave little promise of its present wealth and population. Tydfil, the sister of Rhun Dremrudd, was the daughter of Brychan, the Celtic Christian prince of Garthmadrin. Pagan Saxons from Loegria burst into the peaceful valley, carried fire and sword into its recesses, and ruthlessly slaughtered the virgin with her kinsfolk. A future age erected a church to the memory of the event, and the village took the appropriate name of 'Tydfil the Martyr,' or 'Merthyr Tydfil.' Such is a legend of the Cambrian martyrology, and the foundation of the history of the district, 'of which,' as old Fuller observes, 'every man may believe his proportion.'"—*Westminster Rev.*

The present town, which, with the neighbouring works of Penydarren, Cyfarthfa, and Dowlais, has an enormous population, has arisen in the last 60 years from an inconsiderable village, by reason of the vast manufactories of iron that have sprung up in that period.

Merthyr, though becoming a little more like a civilised and well-ordered town, has no public buildings of any interest. The parish church is an extremely plain building; in the outer wall is an inscribed slab of old red sandstone, the inscription of which is considered to represent "Arthen," a brother of St. Tydfil. St. David's new church is a neat building, erected in 1846. Merthyr is said to have been the first parish in the Principality in which a Dissenting congregation was formed (circ. 1620). The celebrated Vavasor Powell was taken up while preaching here, and put in prison at Cardiff. There are now not less than 30 different Dissenting communities, though the Church is represented by energetic and eloquent pastors.

The **Penydarren Works** are situated just outside the town on the N. They were once the property of the late Alderman Thompson and Mr. Forman, but have long been closed, a serious loss to the town and trade of Merthyr generally, and still more so to the many hundreds of workmen who were employed here. **Penydarren House,** an old seat of Mr. S. Homfray, is now used for the purposes of an excellent proprietary middle-class school. About 2 m. on the road to Abergavenny is Dowlais (Route 9).

Merthyr can boast of being the place where the first locomotive steam-engine was ever launched, in 1805, by Messrs. Vivian and Trevethick. It was tried on the Taff Vale line, or rather tramway, as it was then, on which it ran pretty well as far as Pontypridd, from whence, however, no inducements could prevail upon it to stir.

For a general description of the iron manufacture, see *Introduction*, p. xiv.

1 m. on l. are the **Cyfarthfa Works,** the property of Mr. Crawshay, second only to Dowlais in magnitude, and on the whole the best adapted

for a visit. About 1765 Mr. Anthony Bacon received from Lord Talbot, of Hensol, a lease for 99 years of the mineral ground, about 8 m. long by 4 broad, at the rate of 200*l.* per annum. He erected a furnace at Cyfarthfa, and supplied Government with cannon until 1782. The works passed through several hands into the ownership of Messrs. Crawshay and Hill, the former of whom commenced life as a sharp Yorkshire lad, went to London to seek his fortune, and began by sweeping out the warehouse of his master, dying in 1868 worth four millions — one of the many instances which this country has afforded, of shrewd, hardworking men who have won their way up to fortune and independence by their own exertions. To the l., the road to Aberdare and Swansea stretches up the side of Mynydd Aberdare. Immediately above the works on the rt., stands **Cyfarthfa Castle**, the residence of W. Crawshay, Esq. It is in a good position, backed up by wooded hills, and its general appearance, for a modern castle, is not amiss. The round tower is very good indeed, and the grounds are neatly kept. The broad terrace in front and the extensive greensward carry away the tourist, as he gazes on them, from the grime and blackness of the surrounding region.

From here the tourist may visit the waterfall of Pontsarn and Morlais Castle (Rte. 9).

ROUTE 16.

FROM HEREFORD TO BRECON, BY HAY AND TALGARTH.

(*Hereford, Hay, and Brecon Railway.*)

There are two ways of reaching Hay from Hereford:—1st, by rly., 2nd, by turnpike road on l., rt. bank of the Wye, by which the traveller will have to post or walk, as there is no public conveyance.

By Rail.—The Stat. is the Barton, and the Brecon Rly. soon leaves the main line, turning to the l.

3 m. on l., at **Sugwas**, was once a palace of the bishops of Hereford; fragments of it are incorporated in the present mansion, erected in 1792, when the chapel was taken down. The manor is the property of the Governors of Guy's Hospital.

The ch. of **Stretton Sugwas** has a Norm. doorway, with a sculptured tympanum of Samson pulling a lion's jaws asunder, and a singular wooden tower. There are also some encaustic tiles, and a good oak roodscreen. In the rectory grounds is an elm, which girths 21 ft. 2 in. at 5 ft. from the ground.

4½ m. **Credenhill** Stat. On the hill (715 ft. at the summit) on the rt. are the remains of an ancient British encampment, enclosed by a double and precipitous ditch, containing about 50 acres, with 3 entrances, and overlooking the Roman stat. at Kenchester (Magna Castra). In the *Ch.* is a series of windows showing the development of Dec. tracery, from the simple uncusped lancet to the reticulated window of

the 14th centy. In one of the chancel windows are two figures in old stained glass of Bishop de Braos (1214) and Thomas de Cantilupe (1275). "The Prophet Elm," in **Credenhill Park** (F. W. Herbert, Esq.), has a clear hold of 40 ft., and girths 14 ft. 11 in.

On l. 1 m. is **Kenchester**, occupying the site of the Roman station Magna Castra, mentioned in the Itinerary of Antoninus, which stood upon the ancient Watling Street. The form of this station is an irregular hexagon, inclining to a parallelogram; the area 21 acres, now divided into two enclosures, is raised at least 4 ft. above the level of the adjacent country, and was surrounded by a wall, the foundations of which may yet be traced. Roman coins and a few remains have been found here.

On l. **New Weir** (Captain J. H. Griffiths), situated on a steep ascent above the river, which, indulging here in one of its beautiful curves, affords, from its serpentine course, extensive and picturesque views. Guy's Hospital possesses in Herefordshire about 30,000*l.* per annum in land, and has a large estate in this neighbourhood.

A little further on, overhanging the road, is the small Early Dec. church of **Bridge Sollars**. At this spot is the commencement of **Offa's Dyke**, distinctly visible the whole way to Mansel Gamage, and from thence due N. to Upperton. The traveller frequently gains fine views on the l. of the high hills which contain the sources of the Monnow and other tributaries of the Wye and Usk.

2 m. N., a little to the W. of Credenhill Camp, is the interesting **Ch.** of **Brinsop**. In the aisles are windows of good E. Dec., and on the N. wall is a sculpture of St. George's triumph over the Dragon. In the chancel are monuments to the Danseys, who resided for at least 3 centuries at the **Court**,—a house surrounded by a deep moat, and a valuable example of early 14th-centy. work. The fine timber roof of the hall, now used as a granary, is well worth inspecting. The **Court** was rented early in this centy. by Mr. Hutchinson, a brother-in-law of the poet Wordsworth; and a tree planted by the latter and his predecessor in the Laureateship, Southey, is still shown there. The monumental slab of Lady Douglas Dudley, granddaughter of the notorious Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, and wife of Captain William Dansey of Brinsop, is preserved in the neatly-kept churchyard.

Westmoor is a flag station for the use of **Foxley** (Rev. G. H. Davenport). This estate was acquired (temp. Charles II.) by Mr. Baron Price on his marriage with a coheiress of the Rodds of Rodd and Foxley. He erected the present mansion in 1717, and died 1732. By his grandson, Sir Uvedale Price, author of a well-known 'Essay on the Picturesque,' the grounds and plantations were greatly improved, and a charming ride of 1½ m. was formed through a luxuriant wood to the point of **Lady Lift**, from whence a view is obtained, deservedly admired. The park abounds with stately oaks, elms, and fine conifers. The public are allowed the privilege of access on week days during the summer months.

9 m. **Moorhampton** Stat. *Offa's Dyke* may be seen in an unaltered state, 20 yards south of the stat. The **Ch.** of **Yazor** on rt., rebuilt by Sir Robert Price, and enlarged by the late Mr. Davenport, contains monuments to Mr. Baron Price, Sir Uvedale, Sir Robert Price, and other members of that family. There are some richly-carved wooden stalls and painted windows by *Warrington*.

2 m. S. is **Garnons** (Sir H. G. Cotterell, Bart.), an embattled mansion, erected in 1816, from designs by *Atkinson*, well placed in a thickly-wooded park overlooking the Wye, across which, at **Byford**, is a ferry, conveying horses and carriages to the Madley side. In the gardens of Garnons the modern style of gardening is brought to a high state of perfection.

In the **Ch. of Mansel Gamage** is an elaborately sculptured sepulchral stat. of 13th centy., and tablets to the Cotterell family.

3 m. l. is the striking church of **Staunton-on-Wye**, and between it and the river are **Monnington** ch. and village, with its long avenue of Scotch firs, known as Monnington Walk. The "Monnington Oak" is a noble tree 31 ft. in girth. Monnington was formerly the residence of a powerful family of that name, one of whom married a daughter of Owain Glyndwr, who, according to tradition, died here and was buried in the churchyard, A.D. 1415. No memorial marks the place of his sepulture, but in 1680 a grave supposed to have contained his remains was discovered. The body was "whole and entire, and of goodly stature." The upper stone was carefully replaced and the earth cast upon it.—*Harl. MSS.*

Brobury Scar is a prominent object here. Its principal beauty consists in the bold and abrupt manner in which it rises to a considerable elevation above the river. It is reached by Monnington Walk, which is also the direct route, after crossing a private iron bridge over the Wye, to Moccas, the estate and mansion of the Rev. Sir G. H. Cornewall, Bart., whose ancestor obtained it in the reign of Charles I. by marriage with the heiress of the Vaughans. The finely timbered park has the largest weeping-oak in England, besides several famous oaks, *e.g.* the Club Oak, 94 ft. in height, and 19 ft. 5 in. in girth; the Tall Oak, 118 ft. in height, 18 ft. 7 in. in girth; and the "Moccas Oak," dating back to the Henrys and the Edwards, and having a circumference of 36 ft. at 3 ft. from the ground. The curious Norm. **Ch.** here, built of travertine, and recently restored in excellent taste, is worth a visit. It has an early Norm. font, and an eastern apse.

Moorhampton is the nearest stat. to **Weobley**, 4 m. N. (*Handbook for Herefordshire*).

11 m. **Kinnersley** Stat. The **Castle** (Thomas Reaveley, Esq.) is of the reign of James I., built by the Delaberes, and has had numerous owners. The **Church** (E. E.) has portions of Norm. and Dec. work. The oak reredos is quite a curiosity. The centre is occupied by 3 small figures of our Lord, the Virgin, and St. John. The tower is semi-detached on the N. end of the W. side, and is a well-proportioned structure, surmounted with a plain saddleback roof. The view from the top of it amply repays the trouble of the ascent.

2½ m. rt. **Sarnesfield Court** (M. C. Salvin, Esq.), a seat of the Monnington family from an early period. There is a famous old oak here, known as the Sarnesfield oak.

2 m. l. close to the river is **Letton Court** (Rev. H. Blissett) opposite Bredwardine.

14 m. **Eardisley** Stat. whence a line is now open to Kington, with intermediate stations at Almeley and Lyonshall. ½ m. rt., the village of **Eardisley**. Here the family of Baskerville was seated from the reign of William I. to 1640. A small portion of their once well-fortified castle remains to the W. of the ch., in-

sulated by a triple moat, in clearing out which helmets and spear-heads have been discovered. The **Church** (restored at the cost of W. Perry Herrick, Esq.) consists of a nave, N. aisle, and low embattled tower, having an Anglo-Norm. font curiously sculptured. Coke, Bishop of Hereford, ejected by the Parliamentarians, died at his paternal seat of **Lower Moor** (Gen. Coke) in this parish, 1646, and was buried in the chancel. ½ m. from the church is the **Eardisley oak**, a fine old tree with an immense head, wider than that of the Cowthorpe. The trunk is 18 ft. high and 30 ft. in girth, and it covers altogether a surface of 324 ft. in circular extent.—*Loudon.*

2 m. N. is **Almeley,** the ch. of which is of the 14th centy. The clerestory windows are large, and contain good Dec. tracery. **Newport House** (the representatives of the late Gurney Pease) was a seat of the Foleys for nearly 2 centuries.

17 m. **Whitney** Stat. On l. **Whitney Court** (T. Dew, Esq.). No vestiges remain of the traditional castle of the Whitneys, a leading family in Herefordshire from before the Crusades to the end of the Civil Wars, wherein Sir Robert Whitney, a devoted Loyalist, sacrificed much of his estate in the service of the King. The Wye is crossed by the rly. and by a wooden bridge, carrying the Hereford and Brecon turnpike.

On l. is **Meerbach Hill,** conspicuous for the bold roughness of its scenery. At its foot is *Middlewood* (Col. Dalmaine).

18½ m. rt., between the road and the Wye, are the scanty remains of **Clifford Castle,** the reputed birthplace of Fair Rosamond. The walls cover a natural knoll, isolated by a deep ravine. This fortress is said to have been founded by William Fitz-Osborn, Earl of Hereford and one of the companions of the Conqueror, and was during 2 centuries the baronial residence of the Lords de Clifford, and afterwards of the Giffards, one of whom married the heiress of Walter Giffard, grandson of Walter de Clifford, father of Fair Rosamond. Of this family was Anne, Countess of Dorset, Pembroke, and Montgomery, the very determined lady who had been "bullied by an usurper and neglected by a sovereign," but who would not submit to be "dictated to by a subject." The present ruins, however, show no trace of Norman work, and are probably not earlier than the reign of Hen. III. **Clifford Church** has a large and not ill-proportioned tower, which has a rather modern aspect. The rest of the building is modern Norm.; the roofs, however, have been preserved; that of the nave being barrel-ribbed, and filled up with plaster, and that of the chancel open work and pretty good. The threshold of the N. door is a good coffin-lid, with a carved cross in a circle. In the chancel is a very fine boldly-designed and well-executed effigy of an ecclesiastic, full-sized and full-length, robed and tonsured. The church stands almost alone on a hill, three-fourths of a mile from the castle and village.

On the opposite side of the Wye is **Cabalva** (W. S. Broadwood, Esq.). The construction of the rly. here was of a laborious and expensive nature, as it passes between the river and the steep knoll on which stands the castle, the ruins of which may be seen from the carriages.

20 m. On l. is the **Moor,** the seat of J. Stallard Pennoyre, Esq., overhanging which is **Mouse Castle,** an eminence of considerable height. The summit is embraced by an intrenchment 50 yds. in diameter. This small area is defended by an embankment of earth thrown up 4 yds. perpendicularly, and by a deep

fosse, which, towards the E., presents on the inner side a solid wall of natural rock, based by the clearing of the fosse, so as to expose an upright front of stone 8 ft. high, with a gradual descent of 8 ft. more to the bottom of the ditch. The declivity on all sides is very rapid. Although the smallest, this is the strongest camp in the county. The *Moor* is in the parish of Hardwick, at the vicarage attached to which the venerable antiquary of Herefordshire and historian of the Marches, the Rev. John Webb, passed his later years.

21 m. **Hay** Stat.

The turnpike road from Hereford to Hay, on the S. bank of the Wye, is very interesting and full of quiet beauty.

2 m. rt. is the wooded demesne of **Belmont** (F. R. Wegg Prosser, Esq.), bounded by an imposing length of deep water, a favourite resting-place for the Wye salmon.

Here also is the R. C. **Priory** erected by Mr. Wegg Prosser, from designs by Pugin in Dec. style. The length of the ch. is 113 ft. The tracery of the windows and mouldings is most elaborate, and both exterior and interior of the building are adorned with carvings and various devices. A monastery, with accommodation for 40 Benedictine monks, is connected with the ch. by a cloister 40 ft. long. Its library contains the valuable MS. collections for a history of Herefordshire of the late R. B. Phillips of Longworth, as also a valuable series of topographical works.

3½ m. rt. **Clehonger Ch.,** contains in the Aubrey Chapel recumbent effigies in armour of Sir W. Pembridge, K.G., and one of a female; also tablets for Herbert Aubrey, 1671, and others. Belmont was erected in place of the old mansion of the Aubreys, burnt towards the close of last century.

4½ m. *Cagebrook* (Mrs. Yorke) and *Lower Eaton* (J. Pulley, Esq.).

On rt. is **Eaton Bishop,** the ch. of which has some Norm. and Dec. work, and a stained-glass E. window, supposed to have been originally in the chapel at Sugwas in the 15th centy. Bishop Cantilupe's name is traditionally associated with the chapel and manor of Eaton Bishop.

In this parish is a large British **camp,** enclosing an extent of 30 acres, fortified with single works, except towards the S.W. It appears to have been only a temporary station. The Roman road, called **Stone Street,** runs, in good preservation, between the churches of Madley and Eaton Bishop.

6½ m. is **Madley,** an extensive parish, with a very fine church, principally of Dec. character, but containing some late Norm. features and a Norm. font: it has a polygonal apse, under which is a fine octagonal crypt, with a central shaft and good groining. The windows are mostly of 2 lights, showing the first and middle Pointed styles much intermixed; but one, at the E. end of a small chapel, is a large one of 5 lights. At the W. end is an embattled E. E. tower, surmounted by a high turret, called by the inhabitants "Jacob's Chair." In the chancel are remains of stalls, with desks and miserere seats, and on the rt. of the altar are sedilia of Decorated character, ornamented with the ball-flower. The font is a remarkable specimen, and claims a rank of earlier date than the church: it is hollowed out of a large block of pudding-stone, resembling in size and form that at Kilpeck, though having one circular column. The bells were brought in 1538 from the dissolved abbey of Dore.

9½ m. **Tibberton Court** (R. H. Lee Warner), a large brick-built mansion on an elevated site, once a seat of the Brydges family. The library contains a complete collection of the Elzevir classics.

11 m. is the village of **Blackmere.**

12 m. rt. **Moccas Court** (Rev. Sir Geo. Cornewall, Bart.), which stands on an easy ascent near the river. The parish church is a curious structure, with an eastern apse which retains its semi-domical vaulting, and considered to be the oldest in the county. On an eminence adjoining the park is a large and peculiar kind of British **cromlech,** called King Arthur's Table. The incumbent stone, now broken in the middle, is elliptical in form, 18 ft. in length, 9 ft. broad, and in thickness 2 ft. It was originally supported by 11 upright stones, some of which are fallen; other stones are scattered round, and there is also a small mound near it. Arthur's Table is easily approached by the pedestrian from the village of Bredwardine; and in a field to the l., as he ascends, he may tarry to inspect a mistletoe oak.

14 m. the Wye is crossed by a bridge at **Bredwardine,** the Norm. *Ch.* of which parish has been enlarged and much altered. A curious Norm. font, and 2 mounted figures, remain in tolerable preservation. On the S. side a good Dec. window has been inserted. The remains of the castle, which stood near the ch., and adjoining the vicarage, are reduced to the slopes of the outer defence.

The road now winds at the foot of Meerbach Hill.

19 m. **Hardwick,** where a ch. was built, mainly through the instrumentality of J. Stallard Pennoyre, Esq., whose seat, the *Moor*, is passed on rt.

21 m. ☥ **Hay**, so called from the Norman-French "haier," to enclose, is a small quiet town, picturesquely situated on the rt. bank of the Wye, in a rich agricultural district. The remains of the **Castle** "the which," according to Leland, "hath been some time right stately," are represented by a Gothic gateway and wall, placed on an eminence overhanging the town. It was built in the time of Henry II., and destroyed in the border wars by Glyndwr in 1403. On its site now stands an ivy-covered manor-house, with gables and tall chimneys, the residence of the Rev. W. L. Bevan. The **Church**, a rather plain building, restored in 1867, is romantically situated on the bank of the river at the W. end of the town, separated by a deep ravine from a mound and square platform, the remains of an ancient fortification. Amongst the Communion plate is an ancient silver chalice dedicated to "our Lady Paris of the Haier."

The *scenery* in the neighbourhood of Hay is very beautiful, particularly on the S., where the Black Mountains end in an escarpment of great height, at the foot of which are some pretty dingles, such as **Cusop,** which is well worthy the attention of the pedestrian, and was the favourite abode of a water-colour painter, Lindsey. It is about 11 m. from Hay over the mountain to Llanthony Abbey (Rte. 4). The landscape to the S.W. is worthily closed by the towering summits of the Breconshire Beacons.

The country on leaving Hay is very charming, and the prospect on the l. affords an imposing view of the lofty Hatterell range, or Black Mountains, rising 2000 ft. above the level of the sea, and sweeping for many miles above a broken wooded foreground.

On the rt., on the Radnorshire side of the river, is **Clyro Court**, the

seat of Walter M. Baskerville, Esq.; and on l. **Oakfield** (— Edye, Esq.).

24 m. **Glasbury** Stat., a pretty English-looking village, with a modern Norm. church in good taste. Radnorshire and Breconshire are here connected by a wooden bridge across the Wye, a moiety of which is kept in repair by each county.

On the high ground above the Wye on rt. is **Maeslough Castle,** the modern mansion of Walter de Winton, Esq. Gilpin described the situation on which the present house stands as "the finest of its kind in Wales."

1 m. to the l., on a cross-road from Hay to Talgarth, is **Tregoyd,** the seat of Viscount Hereford, and near it **Gwernyfed** (Col. Wood), an ancient Elizabethan mansion, where Charles I. was entertained by Sir Henry Williams on the 6th of Aug., 1645, on his way from Brecon into Radnorshire. The courtyard is flanked by 2 round towers. In this neighbourhood is also *Llanthomas,* the seat of the Rev. W. Jones Thomas.

26 m. ⚷ Three Cocks Junct., whence the tourist proceeds by Mid-Wales Rly. to Builth and Aberystwyth (Rte. 17). Above the inn and in the grounds of Gwernyfed are intrenchments of British construction, called the *Gaer.*

The rly. to Brecon passes 27½ m. on l., **Porthhaml,** containing a fine embattled entrance-tower.

On rt. is the small village of **Bronllys,** the **Castle** of which is remarkable for its round tower, supposed by some to be fabulously ancient and built by the Phœnicians, but in reality only a keep of the 13th centy., erected after the model of the round tower of Pembroke Castle. It consists of 4 stages, the lowest of which was approached by a trap-door from the first floor. The walls are 10 ft. thick near the base, and decrease to 8 ft. The diameter of the chambers is 18 ft. The proprietor (Mr. W. L. Banks, F.S.A.), has given a very lucid account of the castle, of which there are but few remains except the tower, in the 'Arch. Cambr.' for 1856. At Bronllys, about 1450 A.D., is said to have flourished one Bedo Bronllys, a bard who collected the poems of his predecessor, Davydd ap Gwillym. The church possesses some small Norm. windows and a detached campanile.

28½ m. l., nestling under the shadow of the Black Mountains, is ⚷ **Talgarth** Stat., a borough by prescription, without privilege, jurisdiction, or municipal officers, but placed in an interesting vicinity. The **Church**, consisting of 2 aisles, is superior to most in the country; the fine square tower contains 6 bells, and solidity rather than elegance prevails. Till recently, after an odd fashion hereabouts, the upper half of the tower was whitewashed.

About 3 m. to the S.E. is **Pencader,** or the Cradle Mountain, 2545 ft. above the level of the sea. It may be ascended by following a lane from Talgarth up the dingle to Pen-twyn and Cwm-y-nant, which is of rare beauty. Or the route may be reversed. From Talgarth a walk of 3 m. will bring the tourist to Dinas Castle (Rte. 12), whence a pass leads into the Vale of Usk to Crickhowel, 9 m. Talgarth with Dinas commanded of old the mountain pass to Crickhowel and the E. of the Vale of Usk. The parish of Talgarth, once the seat of the ancient family of Gunter, includes, 1 m. on the Llangorse road, **Trevecca House**, founded in 1752 by Howel Harris, a disciple of Whitfield, for Calvinistic Dissenters, who lived in common, on a

system similar to that of the Moravians. The community at one time numbered 150 persons, who cultivated land and worked at various trades; but, although raised by the untiring zeal of the founder, who devised estates to trustees for the continuance of the system, few persons can be induced "to be happy by a certain regulation, to forego the pursuit of their own objects after their own manner, at their own peril, and for their own advantage." Selina, Countess Dowager of Huntingdon, resided at Trevecca-isaf, and made **Tredustan Court** an establishment for teachers of the Whitfield Methodist Connexion.

31 m. **Trefeinon** Stat., close to which is the primitive little ch. of **Llandevailog Tr'er graig.**

33½ m. Tal-y-Llyn Junct. with the Dowlais and Newport line. (Rte. 9).

On l. is **Llyn Safaddan,** or Llangorse Pool (Rte. 12), the Clamosum of Giraldus, 'Itin. Cambr.' i. 2, about 5 m. in circumference. It was frequented by the monks of Llanthony, who had leave of fishing, the lake abounding in perch, trout, eels, and pike, the latter sometimes attaining the size of 30 or 40 lbs.

Passing through a tunnel, a fine view is obtained, on l. of the Usk, Llanhamlach Ch., and Peterstone, with the distant Beacons—one of the finest rly. views in S. Wales.

37 m. **Brecon** (Rte. 12).

ROUTE 17.

HEREFORD TO ABERYSTWYTH, BY THREE COCKS, BUILTH, RHAYADER, AND LLANIDLOES.

(Mid-Wales Railway.)

From Hereford to ♁ Three Cocks Junct., 26 m. The Mid-Wales Rly., which commences at this point, places Aberystwyth in close and intimate communication with all South Wales and South-western parts, passing for nearly its whole course through some of the most picturesque districts in the Principality.

After leaving the junction, the line soon crosses the Wye to the E. or l. bank, and keeps close to it for many miles, obtaining the most charming river views imaginable.

28½ m. **Boughrood** Stat. From Boughrood Stat. the easiest rte. is taken for **Pains Castle,** which, according to the 'Annales Cambriæ' (p. 78), was a noble castle built of stone and mortar, apparently on the remains of a former and less substantial fortress in the reign of Henry III. The mound and earthworks remain, and show tokens of the former strength of the position. After leaving the stat., pass Boughrood Ch., turn off at a blacksmith's shop, and ascend the hill as far as Penrhos Farm. Thence follow the road through the new enclosures, and the track to the W. of the clump of trees on the Begwns. Another rte. is from Glasbury, turning off at Woodlands, and so by the back of Maeslough. Pains Castle seems to have been frequently be-

sieged, both by the Welsh and the Marchers.

Boughrood Castle (Rev. Hugh Bold) is a square modern house near the site of an ancient fortress. On the opposite bank are **Llyswen**, where formerly a palace of the Welsh princes existed, and **Llangoed** Castle (Sir J. R. Bailey, Bart.), a most attractive spot, from the magnitude and position of its fine woods, which extend for 2½ m. sloping down to the Wye.

32½ m. **Erwood** Stat. At the village, which is on the opposite bank, is "a small hostelrie, where a pedestrian tourist who can rough it, may sometimes sleep." Anglers are apt to congregate here and at Aberedw.

On an inconsiderable elevation to the rt., called **Garth** Hill, are the remains of a British camp.

The tourist should get out at Erwood, and visit the

Craig Pwll Ddu, or the Rock of the Black Pit, about 1 m. from the station.

"The little river Bachwy has worn a very deep and gloomy channel in its descent from the mountains. Savage rocks, slightly fringed with brushwood, impend over the river, and one of vast size projects so abruptly across the glen, as apparently to close it. Here stood the castle of the Black Rock, of which little else than the name remains, but the surrounding peasants devoutly believe that it is the favourite resort of the fairies. Curious legends are circulated in this secluded neighbourhood. According to tradition, one of the ancient Welsh princes kept prisoners in a castle on the summit of the rock, from whence they were not unfrequently hurled into the tremendous pool below. There is a difficult passage round the foot of the Black Rock to a singular waterfall about 40 ft. high, surrounded by accessories which very greatly heighten its grandeur. You feel astonished, but hardly pleased, in this wild and gloomy hollow, and value sunshine when you leave its agitated caldron far below. There is a smaller waterfall lower down."—*Cliffe.*

In the ch.-yard of **Llanstephan,** 1 m. to the l., are some magnificent yew-trees, one of which is 22 ft. in girth. Between Boughrood Stat. and Llanstephan is a long stretch of the river, where it runs along the line of a fault connected with the upheaval that caused the contorted rocks of Craig Pwll Dhu, and whence Sir R. Murchison gained his first idea of what grew into his Silurian system.

36½ m. **Aberedw** Stat. Near which the Edw falls into the Wye. Here was the hunting-seat of Llewelyn ap Gruffydd, the last native Prince of Wales. The site of a defensive position (wood or stone), much hidden by foliage, occupies the summit of a mound, partly natural, at the entrance of the highly picturesque glen of the Edw. Lower down are faint vestiges of a castle, said to have been built by Ralph de Baskerville. The church stands on an eminence above the castle, round which the Edw flows, and opposite to a lofty range of rocks partially concealed by trees. An excavation in the rock retains the name of "Llewelyn's Cave." The local legend is that he chose this cave for his hiding-place; but the usually received story that he marched to Aberedw to meet the English, and being surprised by superior forces of the enemy, whom the men of Aberedw had treacherously acquainted with his movements, retreated in the opposite direction towards Builth, militates against this story. The unfortunate prince was killed in 1282, in a dingle 3 m. N. of Builth, by a party of Herefordshire men, and buried at Cwm Bedd Llewelyn on the Yrfon (Rte. 19), where a farmhouse is still called Cefn-y-Bedd, *i.e.* "the Ridge of the Grave."

Between Aberedw and Builth the

stream of the Dihonw flows in on the opposite side.

40 m. **Builth Wells** Stat.

ȸ **Builth,** the ancient Bullæum, is a picturesque little town situated on the Wye, across which a bridge of 6 arches connects the counties of Brecon and Radnor. The town consists of 2 parallel streets, forming irregular terraces on the side of a steep declivity. The only remains of the **Castle** are a fragment of the N. wall, of unusual thickness; it was destroyed by a fire, together with a large portion of the old town, in 1692.

The castle came by marriage with the daughter and heiress of Milo Fitzwalter, Earl of Hereford, to Philip de Braose, whose grandson, Reginald, enlarged and strengthened it against the Welsh. It remained in possession of the Braose family for some time, but in 1260 Sir Roger Mortimer was castellan for the Crown. The gallant Llewelyn wrested it from Mortimer and held it until his death, which the refusal of "the traitors of Builth" to admit him into his own castle greatly accelerated. The loss of the fortress was considered of such importance that Mortimer was arraigned for it, but, after a tediously protracted trial, was honourably acquitted. Scarce a trace remains of the Norman fortress that once surmounted earthworks which still tell of pre-Norman occupation, and which resemble, as Mr. G. T. Clark has observed, those at Wigmore, Richard's Castle, and elsewhere. Its site is on the E. edge of the town, about 100 yards from the river. It has a considerable view to the N., and is within an easy ride of Pain's Castle and other fortresses of the middle Wye and Usk. It stands on a bank falling steeply towards the north of the river, and, though higher on all sides than the adjacent ground, is approached by an easy ascent from the S., on which side was its entrance. The castle occupied a nearly circular plot of ground, being about 180 yds. N. and S. by 190 E. and W.—(*G. T. C.*, 'Arch. Cambr.,' vol. iv., 4th series.)

The air of this locality is considered very salubrious; and the mineral springs at **Park Wells,** about a mile from the town, attract, during the season, many visitors, for whose accommodation a Pump-room has been erected. The waters flow from three springs, saline, chalybeate, and sulphureous, said to be perfectly distinct, though originating within a few feet of each other. The ch., which is in process of restoration, is comparatively modern, but has an ancient tower, with a vaulted stone roof, and which may have been used for defensive purposes. In it is an effigy of John Lloyd of Towyn, gentleman of the Body-Guard to Queen Elizabeth, and son of Thomas Lloyd, Lord-Lieutenant of Brecknockshire. He is stated on his tablet to have been the first Sheriff and Justice of the Peace that ever dwelt in this lordship after the division of Wales into shire-bounds. The hands of the effigy are turned downwards, not clasped erect on the breast as in earlier examples. Builth is a very popular *fishing* station for anglers; trout and salmon being found in great abundance in the Wye and Yrfon; the Chweffru, Edw, and Dihonw, are also good fishing streams. The salmon-fishing furnishes excellent sport in April and May.

There are some very pretty seats in the neighbourhood. On the wooded hill to the E. are **Wellfield** (E. D. Thomas, Esq.) and **Pencerrig House**, the property of Miss Thomas, of Llwynmadoc. Both estates abound in fine timber. The former has several well-known rare conifers; the latter some magnificent

oaks. In the grounds of the latter is a picturesque lake. Above Builth, on the banks of the Wye, is **Glanwye**, the charming seat of Lady Bailey.

There are also beautiful excursions to

Llandewi-r-'cwm, 2 m. S., and to **Cefn-y-bedd**, between the Yrfon and Chweffru rivers (Rte. 19).

From **Builth Road** Stat. (2 m. to the N.) northwards to Craven Arms, Llandrindod; and southwards to Llandovery, Llandeilo, Caermarthen, and Swansea.

From Builth the line (passing, rt., **Llanelwedd Ch.**, and **Llanelwedd Hall** (H. Gwynne Howell, Esq.)), continues along the bank of the Wye to, 42 m., Llechrhyd, or Builth Road Junct., where the Central Wales Rly. crosses the Mid Wales in its course from Craven Arms to Caermarthen. Llechrhyd is remarkable for a supposed Roman camp, within a much larger circular British intrenchment. Traces of the original trackway still exist. The Roman work — earth-works which may have served as a halting-place between Bannium and the nearest stat. to the N.—has been considerably interfered with by the construction of the rly. and its platform.

Glanwye (Lady Bailey). The route here becomes one of the most romantic in S. Wales, traversing an extremely picturesque country, in which fine woods, precipitous mountains, and a river ever changing in its aspect, are the principal elements.

Crossing the *Ithon*, which flows from the Montgomeryshire hills to join the Wye at this spot, the rly. reaches 45 m., **Newbridge on Wye** Stat., where a bridge crosses the river at *Llysdinam Hall*, the seat of the Rev. H. Venables. At 43 m. on the rt. the high peak of *Dolevan* Hill overhangs the river, which, from this spot to its very source, is environed by mountains almost from the water's edge. The rly. runs on a terrace above the Wye to, 49 m., **Doldowlod** Stat. *Doldowlod* is the seat of J. W. Gibson Watt, Esq., whose ancestor, James Watt, the famous engineer, purchased the property at the beginning of this centy. The pedestrian is recommended to get out at this stat. and walk the 5 m. to Rhayader, by the bank of the river.

50 m. l. **Pen-lan-oleu** (the Rev. Nelson Lingen), situated at the foot of the huge mass of Rhiw Gwraidd.

½ m. further on the opposite bank, "the small village and tiny ch. (restored in 1874) of **Llanwrthwl** look out from a mountain nest of wood and heather upon the broad river below, whose course runs through woods, only allowing occasional peeps of the opposite towering hills, also belted with avenues and groups of fine trees."—*Roscoe.*

52 m. At **Aberdauddwr** an exquisitely lovely scene presents itself. On rt. the grand woody crag of *Gwastaden* mountain rises boldly from the Wye, which here receives on its rt. bank the waters of the Elan, after winding round the base of the *Corn Gafallt.* "The scene constantly varies as we view the two vales of the Wye and Elan in different positions, ever lovely, ever new; while on the rt. the huge crags maintain their stern, harsh features, gradually deepening in tone from clearly-seen rocks and heather in the foreground to the dim yet rich purple of the distant peaks." From hence a beautiful road along the N. side of Gwastaden brings the tourist to the romantic little town of Rhayader.

52 m. ♁ **Rhayader** Stat. Its Welsh name, Rhaiadr Gwy, signifies "the

cataract of the Wye;" but the slight fall whence it was derived was nearly destroyed, by widening the channel and removing the rocks in order to build a bridge over the river, in 1780. The town itself, which shares with Presteign, Knighton, Knucklas, and New Radnor, the privilege of returning the M.P. for Radnorshire Boroughs, although in a situation of great beauty, possesses few objects of interest; but the tourist and fisherman will reap their reward in exploring the vales of the Wye, the Claerwen, the Elan, and the Marteg.

[A very beautiful excursion may be taken to **Cwm Elam**, 5 m., passing by the little church of **Llansaintfread Cwmddaudwr**, in which parish are tumuli and a barrow worth visiting, and at 1 m. from thence, a road to the right, leading to **Rhydoldog**, the seat of General Sladen, R.H.A., the situation of which commands a view of great beauty and extent in the direction of Builth. Crossing the summit of **Cefn Craig-y-Foel**, which Mr. Cliffe thinks is only surpassed by one other mountain in Wales for warmth and beauty of colour, the tourist drops suddenly into the Vale of Elan, opposite the park and mansion of **Cwm Elan** (R. L. Lloyd, Esq.), "the paradise of the district, created, like Hafod, out of bare and cultureless land." It was originally formed by a Mr. Grove, whose daughter Harriet was Shelley's early love, and who many years ago purchased 10,000 acres of land, and planted largely. Bowles in his poem of 'Combe Elian' thus celebrates the vale:

"Pass the hill,
And through the woody hanging, at whose feet
The tinkling Elian winds, pursue thy way."

The views higher up the vale are very striking, particularly about a mile from the house, where the river dashes underneath an alpine bridge. This spot, which overlooks a black and seemingly bottomless pool at the foot of the torrent, is named **Pontrhyllfan.** On returning to Rhayader, the visitor should keep along the banks of the Elan, winding round Craig-y-foel, opposite which the Elan is joined by the **Claerwen,** which rises in the hills between Rhayader and Tregaron. A little above the junction of the two rivers is **Nantgwillt,** the residence of Robert Lewis Lloyd, Esq.; and sometime in the occupation of Percy Bysshe Shelley, who was visited here by Peacock, the novelist, in 1812. The mountain scenery in the Nantgwillt and Cwm Elan valleys is perhaps the most beautiful and romantic in S. Wales. Still higher are the *lead-mines* of Dalrhiw and Nantycar. From hence a good pedestrian may cross the mountain by the lofty Drygarn, and descend by the vale of the Yrfon to Llanwrtyd Wells. (Rte. 19.)]

Excellent fishing is to be obtained in some of the many lakes in the wild and hilly district of **Ellenith**, which stretches W. from Rhayader to Tregaron, and S. to Llandovery. The trout in these lakes are capricious; and sometimes a basket of 30 lb. may be obtained, whilst at others the take is nil. The most accessible lakes from Rhayader are — Llyn Rhyddnant, Helygen, Cwyngy, Cerrig Llwydion Uchaf and Isaf, and Fyddin.

From Rhayader the rly. ascends the high ground of Moel Hywel, descending into the valley of the Marteg, near the village of St. Harmon.

59 m. **Pant-y-dwr** Stat., where the Marteg flows in from the rt., and the high-road comes point blank upon the railway with a dangerous abruptness. It is a wild country all the way to

63 m. **Tylwch** Stat., where the

valley of the Afon Tylwch is entered near the village of Capel Banhaglog.

66 m. Llanidloes Junct., with the *Cambrian* System, by which the traveller proceeds to Moat Lane Junct.; thence to Machynlleth and Aberystwyth (Rte. 22). See *Handbook for N. Wales.*

ROUTE 18.

HEREFORD TO ABERYSTWYTH, BY KINGTON, RADNOR, AND RHAYADER.

From Hereford to **Kington** the traveller must proceed by the Hereford and Shrewsbury Rly. to Leominster Junct., whence a short branch is given off to Kington.

† **Kington** used to be a favourite starting-place for tourists to Aberystwyth, whither a coach ran daily. Though there is now no public conveyance, the route should be travelled for the sake of its exquisite scenery; and, thanks to the S. Wales County Roads Boards, the roads are very fairly good. Kington is a prettily situated little town, surrounded by hills, that immediately on the N. being called **Bradnor Hill,** on the summit of which are the remains of a quadrangular camp commanding a most extensive view. Leland was unable to determine whether this camp was British, Roman, or Saxon, whilst some antiquaries attribute its existence to the Druids. The **Church,** though much modernised, contains many portions deserving inspection, particularly a fine alabaster tomb in the S. aisle, to the memory of Thomas Vaughan and his wife Ellen of Hergest Court, in the 15th centy. To the S.W. of the ch.-yd. is the old Grammar School with its quaint gables. It was founded by Dame Margaret Hawkins, the widow of the circumnavigator, and daughter of Charles Vaughan of Hergest, sometime lady of the bedchamber to Queen Elizabeth. The first headmaster of this school was Christopher Harvey, M.A., the author of the "Synagogue," often appended to "The Temple" of George Herbert. The building was designed by John Abell, the same who built the ancient market-houses at Hereford, Leominster, and elsewhere. Mrs. Siddons made her first appearance on any stage in a barn-theatre in this town. Her father and mother were the managers; and her brother Stephen Kemble's name appears among the births in the parish register.

1 m. S. is **Hergest Court,** an ancient mansion, situated in a fertile plain on the bank of the river Arrow, for ages the residence of the powerful family of the Vaughans, who were, with their relative Sir David Gam, distinguished for their bravery at Agincourt. The private chapel, a spacious stone building near the house, is now used as a granary. 3 m. N.E. on the road to Presteign is the rural village of **Titley.** The **Court,** situated on rising ground, was rebuilt in 1776. It has an extensive and well-stocked deer-park, and on the demise of Lady Coffin Greenly, 1839, passed to Louisa, wife of Admiral Sir Thomas Hastings, at whose death it came into the possession of Charles William Allen, Esq., who assumed the surname of Greenly. Here was an

ancient priory subordinate to the Abbey of Tyrone in France. On the suppression of alien priories, it was given by Henry V. to Winchester College, and still belongs to that establishment. In this parish is **Eywood,** the paternal estate of Edward Harley, Auditor of the Imprest and brother of the Lord Treasurer, who enlarged the mansion. It is placed in a well-wooded locality, surrounded by an extensive range of pleasure-grounds, containing some good-sized lakes, and was the principal residence of his descendant, Lady Langdale, who by will gave her freehold property to R. D. Harley, Esq., the representative of a distant branch in Shropshire. *Titley* is a *Stat.* on the Leominster and Kington Rly.

A rly. was opened in 1847 from *Titley, viâ* Lyonshall and Almeley, to **Eardisley** Stat. on the Hereford and Brecon line (Rte. 16).

[7 m. is ♁ **Presteign**, or Llanandras, to all intents and purposes the capital of Radnorshire, and a pleasant little town, situated on the Lugg, which separates it from Herefordshire.

The **Church** consists of nave, chancel, aisles, and a square embattled tower, and contains some tapestry representing the entry of Christ into Jerusalem, a fine stained glass window, a good brass, and some monuments to the neighbouring families. Here too is a leper window, as at Ludlow. As the county town, Presteign possesses a Shire-hall and Jail. In the dining-room of the Judges' lodgings, adjoining the Shire-hall, are portraits of Lord Ormathwaite ; Sir Frankland Lewis ; his son and successor, Sir G. Cornewall Lewis ; Richard Price, Esq., sometime M.P. for Radnor ; and the Venables (father and son), between them for 40 years Chairmen of the Radnor Quarter Sessions. To the W. are pleasant walks on an elevated position, called the **Warden**, the site of the former castle, commanding extremely pretty views of the surrounding country. Many beautiful seats are in the neighbourhood, the principal of which are **Boultibrook,** 1 m. on the Knighton road (Sir Harford Brydges) ; and **Knill Court** (Sir John Walsham, Bart.), between Presteign and Radnor, which contains in its exquisite grounds the restored ch. of Knill, where Sir Samuel Romilly lies buried. **Offa's Dyke** runs close by, crossing the wooded hills of Herrock and Knill Garraway in its course to Kington. Between Knill and Presteign is the bold rock of *Nash Scar.*

Wapley Hill Camp, 3 m. to the S.E., is a perfect and interesting British camp, with mounds and ditches fivefold on all sides but the north. Its length is about 572 yards, and its utmost breadth about 330. There is every reason to believe that it was one of the strongholds unsuccessfully held against the Romans by Caractacus.]

The first part of the road from Kington to Radnor lies through an exceedingly pretty valley bounded by high hills planted with woods, in which larch predominates, and having something of the character of parts of the Black Forest in Germany. At 2½ m. a stone marks the boundary of Herefordshire and Radnorshire, and consequently of England and Wales, after which the turnpike road, turning abruptly to the N., passes, at a little distance on the l.

Old Radnor, or, as it was called, because perched on a rocky height, Pen-y-Craig, or Crûg, with its venerable **Church**, containing a beautiful carved roof and oak screen, an ancient font, some handsome monuments to the family of Lewis of Harpton, and in particular to the late Sir George Cornewall Lewis,

Another curiosity of old Radnor Ch. is the fine example of an organ-case of the liner pattern, of the date of 1605. It has been recently restored through the exertions of Lady Lewis, and fitted with an organ worthy of so perfect a framework. The font is of porphyritic stone, said to be the same as the four stones in the neighbourhood of Harpton; but an inspection of those stones shews them to be unhewn boulders from the volcanic rocks of Hanter or Stanner, a couple of miles to the south. Such boulders would scarcely admit of being dressed even so rudely as is the Old Radnor font. At Old Radnor Charles I. supped and slept at a yeoman's house on the 6th of August, 1645, having come that day from Gwernefyd, near Hay. The hill of Old Radnor, and the three neighbouring heights of Stanner, Hanter, and Worzel, possess high interest for the geologist. They consist of trap or greenstone, resembling the rare hypersthene rock of Coruisk in the isle of Skye.

Soon after passing Old Radnor—which is the site of **Cruker Castle,** visited by Giraldus Cambrensis and Archbp. Baldwin in 1188—**Harpton Court**, the seat of Rev. Sir G. Frankland Lewis, Bart., appears at the extremity of the vista formed by a fine broad double avenue of limes. About ½ m. to rt. of the road are four upright stones of great antiquity, not far from a farm-house called the Knap, to the N. of which is a round tree-clad tumulus. The four stones enclose a space of 13 ft., and vary from 6 to 4 ft. in height, and 11 to 15 ft. in girth. It is probable that, as the supports of a large covering stone, their purpose was sepulchral. Passing on rt. **Downton Hall** (Sir E. Cockburn, Bart.), and the Cornewall Lewis Memorial Cross, the traveller arrives at

6 m. **New Radnor**, an instance of a town, once sufficiently important to have given its name to the county (which was created in the reign of Henry VIII.), having dwindled away to a mere village. The business of the county has been long ago transferred to Presteign, as being more suited from position and importance. "The mount on which the castle stood, and fragments of the walls which surrounded the town, are still to be seen; but the whole was destroyed by Glyndwr in 1401, who at the same time beheaded the garrison of 60 men in the castle yard." — *F. L.* Considerable remains of the Castle were exposed in erecting the Lewis Memorial Cross, and another site had to be chosen. New Radnor gives its name to a group of contributory boroughs, like those of Montgomeryshire, of which the remaining five are Presteign, Knighton, Knucklas, Rhayader, and Cefn-y-llys. The Welsh name of this place, Maes-y-ved, meaning "the imbibing meadow," is derived from the circumstance of the small stream the Somergill, being absorbed in dry weather by the gravelly soil of the Vale of Radnor; but it reappears on reaching a bed of clay.

Giraldus Cambrensis commences at this place his 'Itinerary,' written while he followed in the suite of Baldwin, Archbishop of Canterbury, who in 1188 undertook a mission to preach the Crusades in Wales. The country round New Radnor is exceedingly hilly and wild, many of the principal summits rejoicing in rather curious nomenclature, such as the Fron and the Wimbles to the N. of the town, and Smatcher to the S. The valley again contracts and appears blocked up by a picturesque conical hill, called the Mynd, near which, up a narrow gully on the rt., is situated an interesting cascade, called **Water-break-its-Neck,** descending from a height of 70 ft. This cascade, one of the most celebrated in Wales, is to be found on a rocky hillside about 1 m.

from the turnpike road. Unfortunately the visitors to Water-break-its-Neck more often find the "fountains not playing" than otherwise, as, except after protracted wet weather, there is little force of water. On the turnpike road, near the Forest Inn, a path to the rt. leads to **Tomen Castle**, a single-ditched circular British work, partly artificial and partly natural. From it the pedestrian may find his way to the head of the fall above mentioned. To reach this point of the high-road, however, the traveller must have begun the long ascent of **Radnor Forest**, whose summit is 2163 ft. high, consisting, in spite of its name, of bare open hills, affording pasturage to sheep and horses. The horses, like the sheep, are tended and collected by dogs. "Originally this was a bounded forest; *i.e.*, if any man or beast entered the said forest without leave, the former was to lose a limb and the latter to be forfeited, unless a heavy ransom were paid and other grievous exactions submitted to. This, however, was remedied in the reign of Elizabeth.

9 m. on the slope of a hill in ascending, the little ch. of **Llanfihangel Nant-mellan** is passed, remarkable for the ancient yew-trees by which it is surrounded. At 9½ m. on l. a road branches off to Builth, passing close to the small lake of **Llyn-hilyn**.

On the opposite descent lies **Llandegley**, and near it a strong sulphur spring, much frequented during the summer for drinking and bathing. It is somewhat remarkable that St. Tecla, the patron saint of this ch., has also a well of supposed virtue at Llandegla, in Denbighshire. The ch. is remarkable for its great length—110 ft., including tower and chancel. It has a dilapidated screen and a Norman font. Near the ch.-yd. is a singular range of rocks abounding in quartz crystals.

15 m. ♁ **Penybont**, where the road crosses the Central Wales Rly., is a pleasant village with a suspension bridge over the Ithon. There is a *Stat.* here of the Central Wales Rly. **Penybont Hall** is the residence of J. Percy Severn, Esq.

[A road to the rt. leads to Knighton and Presteign, over the high ground of Radnor Forest and through the villages of Llanfihangel Rhydithon and Bleddfa, in the ch. of which there is an octagonal font and a good piscina.]

16¾ m. a road branches on the N. to Newtown, and on the S. to Llandrindod and Builth.

17 m. The little river Clywedog is crossed, close to its junction with the Ithon.

19 m. A Roman road runs across the turnpike, at a spot called **Caerfagu**, by many antiquaries supposed to have been the site of the Roman station of Magos, many remains having been found in the vicinity.

20½ on rt. the church of **Nantmel**, and 21 m. on l. is **Llwyn-barried**, the residence of E. Middleton Evans, Esq.

A little to the S. is **Llyn-Gwyn**, a lake about 1 m. in circumference, formerly held in great veneration by pilgrims, who came long distances to visit it. It is said by Malkin to be the only picturesque lake in Radnorshire.

25 m. ♁ **Rhayader** (Rte. 17), one of the contributory boroughs of Radnor. There is a Stat. here on the Mid-Wales Rly. From Rhayader there are 2 roads to Aberystwyth. The new road, finished in 1834, is 1 m. longer than the old; but, as it avoids many steep ascents and descents, is far preferable, and is the one usually followed by persons travelling post. In the year 1803 a postchaise at Rhayader was the only public conveyance in Rad-

norshire. For 18 m. the road is carried up the l. bank of the Wye, here a mere torrent, descending through a valley bounded by steep and bare hills. Cultivation gradually diminishes as the traveller mounts higher. The road is supported for the most part of the way on a terrace over the shoulders of the hills; at times descending to the margin of the river, at others winding along at a height of 100 ft. above it, and in many places bounded by an almost precipitous descent.

28 m. on rt. the little river **Marteg,** after passing by St. Harmon's, joins the Wye, which at this point is singularly picturesque, becoming at the **Nannerth** rocks "narrower and more rocky; being, in fact, a chasm through which the confined waters roar and struggle along in loud chiding anger."

29 m., between the road and river, is **Glangwy,** the pretty little villa of F. Hoxton, Esq.

35 m. **Llangurig,** a small village in a lovely situation. Here the road to the rt. branches off to Llanidloes, 5 m.

40 m. we take leave of the Wye, crossing it, but still ascending by the course of the Afon Tarenig, its tributary, until, at a place called *Steddfa Gurig,* the narrow ridge forming the summit-level is crossed. This, or Dyffryn Castell, is the best point from which to ascend the enormous mass of **Plinlymmon,** 2463 ft. above the level of the sea. It rises from the midst of a dreary waste, encompassed by bogs and morasses; and its top, distant 10 m. from Llangurig and 12 m. from Llanidloes, will scarce repay the toil of an ascent, which on no account should be attempted without a guide. The mountain of Plinlymmon is more properly 3 mountains, which may be considered as the centre of a large group, spreading into subordinate chains. Gray's "Huge Plinlimmon bows his snow-capped head" will not strike the traveller as a very appropriate description.

It is famous for the 5 rivers which burst from its flanks: the **Dulas;** the **Rheidol,** springing from a lake on the summit, called Lygad Rheidol, or the Eye of the Rheidol, and joining the sea at Aberystwyth; the **Llyffnant,** a tributary of the Dovey; the *Wye* (Gwy, in Welsh, meaning water), issuing from two copious springs on the S.E. side of the mountain; and the **Severn**—second of British floods—which has its source on the N.W. descent of the mountain, not 2 m. apart from the head of the Wye, near a lake called Llyn Bugeillyn. It rushes down through gaps in the slate rock, a mere mountain-torrent, to Llanidloes, and thus far is called by the Welsh, Hafren. In the fastnesses of Plinlymmon, Owain Glyndwr took his stand in 1401, at the outset of his career, with a handful of determined followers; and, issuing hence, spread havoc along the English borders, which he assaulted in various inroads.

"Three times hath Henry Bolingbroke made head
Against my power: thrice from the banks of Wye
And sandy-bottom'd Severn have I sent him
Bootless home, and weatherbeaten back."
Shakespeare.

The view from the summit, if the weather be clear, is very extensive; embracing Cader Idris and the Snowdon chain on the N., the Breidden hills on the N.E., and Cardigan Bay to the W.

At **Steddfa Gurig** the traveller enters a different valley (whose waters flow in an opposite direction to those of the Wye), bounded by mountains whose rugged outline proclaims them to be composed of

slate. Every now and then the appearance of a solitary building, with its fast-driving waterwheel and heaps of dirty refuse, proclaims that lead abounds, and that this is the district of mining adventurers.

46 m. from **Castell Dyffryn**, where there is a solitary and sorry post-house, a road to the l. strikes off to **Parson's Bridge**, and the **Devil's Bridge**, 3 m.

48 m. **Pont Erwyd.** It is worth while to stop and look at the **falls** of the Castell and Rheidol, which unite in a wild rocky gorge close to the river and the road, but at a considerable depth below them.

About 50 yds. before reaching the river, a rough cross-road strikes over the hill, and in about 1 m. falls into the old post-road to the Devil's Bridge at Yspytty Cynfyn. For more than 3 m. from Pont Erwyd the road ascends, bare moor and hills surrounding it on every side; but on arriving at the summit of Cefn Brwno a rapid descent takes place all the way to Aberystwyth. From here magnificent views are to be obtained over Cardigan Bay, particularly if the visitor happens to arrive at sunset.

53 m. on l. are the **Coginan** lead-mines, one of the most extensive in Cardiganshire, and which, as well as the Lisburne mines in Cwm Ystwyth, are the most available and the best worth the inspection of the visitor. The appearance of the numerous large wheels, situated one above the other at different levels—the sombre grey hue of the jagged hills—the long, low sorting-houses, and the noise of the stamping-machines,—all combine to throw a mysterious effect over the scene.

At the village of **Capel Bangor** the road joins company with the Rheidol, forming, for the rest of the way, an agreeable feature in the landscape, which it enlivens with its sinuous windings.

59 m. the village of **Llanbadarn Fawr** is passed, famous for the Ch. of St. Padarn or Paternus, a friend of St. David and St. Teilo, and a saint of great renown, who founded a monastery here in the time of the holy Dubritius. It is an ancient cruciform structure of about the 12th centy., chiefly remarkable for its massive tower, of later date than the rest of the Ch., rising from the centre and supported by 4 massive piers. It also contains a number of lancet-shaped windows, with chamfered edges, which contribute much to the air of solidity and strength. There is a good doorway of the 12th centy., forming the entrance into the S. side of the nave. In the interior of the ch. are monuments to the families of Nanteos and Gogerddan. In the chancel is buried Lewis Morris, of Penbryn, in this county, a celebrated Welsh bard and antiquary of the last centy., and ancestor of the living and more widely known poet, his namesake. Llanbadarn was visited by Archbishop Baldwin and Giraldus Cambrensis in 1188, when, as the latter tells us, the monastery had a lay abbot, an evil custom of that period in Wales and Ireland. In the churchyard are some very ancient sculptured stone crosses.

60 m. **Aberystwyth** (Rte. 22).

The old road from Rhayader to Aberystwyth is shorter by 1 m., but considerably more hilly and not so good as the other. Crossing the Wye, on the rt. is **Dderw** (T. C. Prickard, Esq.), the scene of an atrocious murder in Henry VIII.'s time, when a party of Cardiganshire banditti lay in wait for the judge who was coming to the assizes, and shot him through the heart. The assizes were consequently removed to Radnor and Presteign.

2 m. on l. **Llyn Gwyn**, a lake of considerable size, surrounded on every side by high hills. The road now ascends the steep hill of **Penrhi-wen** and about 6 m. descends again into the vale of the Elan, whose l. bank it follows almost to its very source, afterwards crossing the watershed and joining the valley of the Ystwyth, in which, at 14 m., are the celebrated lead-mines of **Cwm Ystwyth,** one of the earliest worked and most profitable in Cardiganshire. Large fortunes have been made from them and other lead-mines in the district. From the mine named Cwm Symlog, Sir Hugh Myddelton drew 2000*l.* a month, and acquired the vast wealth which he expended so unprofitably to himself, and so much to the benefit of others, in forming the New River to supply London with water.

A handsome stone bridge carries the road over the Ystwyth to **Pentre Brunant** from whence it is 4 m. to the **Devil's Bridge.**

ROUTE 19.

CRAVEN ARMS TO CAERMARTHEN, BY LLANDRINDOD, LLANDOVERY, AND LLANDEILO.

(*Central Wales Railway.*)

This great trunk rly. leaves CRAVEN ARMS JUNCT. on the Shrewsbury and Hereford Rly., and branches off to the S.W., passing

3 m. **Broome** Stat.

5½ m. **Hopton Heath** Stat., near which is *Hopton Castle*, a small, well-proportioned tower, having mouldings of the 14th centy. The present structure must have replaced one given by Henry II. to Walter de Clifford. The ch. of Hopton was originally a daughter ch. of Clun.

8½ m. **Bucknell** Stat. Bucknell is twice mentioned in 'Domesday Book.' Before 1176 its lord had given the advowson of the ch., which is a mixture of Norman and Early English, to the Abbey of Wigmore. Overlooking it is the wooded eminence of **Coxwall Knoll,** considered by some to be the locale of the last battle of Caractacus with the Romans under Ostorius, but clearly lacking any higher ground to which the Britons could have retreated, as Tacitus says they did. Neither is there any vestige of stone defences.

Passing l. **Stanage Park** (S. Rogers, Esq.), and on rt. Stow Hill, and the Holloway Rocks, the tourist reaches

12½ m. **Knighton** Stat.

♄ **Knighton**, anciently called Tref-y-clawdd, or the Town on the Dyke, is pleasantly situated on rising ground overlooking the rt. bank of the Teme, which flows between the counties Radnor and Salop. The only antiquities in the town, which is clean and well built, are an old mansion, once occupied by the Brydges family, and another at the E. end, of the time of James I. The principal object of interest, however, is Offa's Dyke, which passes through the town.

The staple of Knighton is its woollen cloth-mills, which have now passed into the hands of a company.

The neighbourhood of Knighton abounds in military remains of past ages, particularly **Caer Caradoc,** about 3 m. to the N., said, like Coxwall Knoll, to have been defended by Caractacus against the Romans

under Ostorius. Here, however, there is neither the "amnis vado incerto" of Tacitus, nor yet the higher mountains, for the Britons to fall back upon. It is, however, a fine camp, nearly circular, triply defended towards the W., on which side it is most accessible, and having two lines of defence on the E. It has entrances on E. and W., and commands a fine outlook. It is approached from the road to Clun by a footpath on the rt. over two or three enclosures.

The line now runs up the valley of the Teme, passing *Craig Donna*, a picturesque rock, originally tenanted in the 7th centy. by an anchorite, to

15 m. **Knucklas** Stat. · On rt. 2 m. is **Llanfair Waterdine**, which contains some inscribed stones.

The rly. now quits the valley of the Teme, and crosses high ground to

19 m. **Llangynllo** Stat. On l. 3 m. is the old manor-house of *Monachty*, of the date of Queen Elizabeth.

1½ m. beyond, on the Presteign road, is **Pilleth**, the scene of a battle between Glyndwr and the English under Sir Edmund Mortimer, who, as Shakespeare described him in speaking of this battle,

> "In single opposition, hand to hand,
> Did confound the best part of an hour
> In changing hardiment with great Glendower."

Here is also an Elizabethan house. There is a good Dec. church in this village.

Llanbister Road Stat.

On the rt., about 8 m. from Knighton, and approached by the Llanbister Road, is **Castle Cwm Aran**, an oblong British camp, with stiff trenches on all sides but one, which overlooks the Aran and is very precipitous. It was afterwards converted into a mediæval stronghold. A mile further to the W. is **Castle Bank**, a circular camp of 12 acres, and further W. a hill-fort called the *Gaer*, which is a rectangular oblong camp of British type, commanding the narrow valley of the Ithon, and supposed by Dean Merivale to be the scene of the last battle of Caractacus. Tourists will probably weary of the numberless competing sites, the more so if they discover that the Breidden Hills near Welshpool best fulfil the requirements of Tacitus. The ch. at Llanbister is a fine sample of the mother-ch. of a district, with a buttressed tower to the E., surmounted by a wooden belfry. It is said to have been enriched by spoils of Abbey Cwm Hir. The S. window of the chancel is of the 14th centy. The length of nave and chancel is 90 ft.

25½ m. **Dolau** Stat. The village of **Llanfihangel Rhyd Ithon** is on l. Soon after, the line joins the valley of the Ithon, and runs down to

28½ m. ♁ **Penybont** Stat., close to which is **Penybont Hall** (J.P. Severn, Esq.). Here is a suspension bridge over the Ithon. 2 m. rt. across the Ithon is **Llanbadarn Fawr** Church. See Rte. 19.

32 m. ♁ **Llandrindod Wells** Stat. There are also several first-class lodging-houses. The mineral waters of Llandrindod have been known to possess efficacious power ever since 1696, and as long ago as 1749 a large hotel was opened by a Mr. Grosvenor, termed Llandrindod Hall, an establishment which obtained an extensive reputation, but ultimately became the resort of such questionable characters, that it was pulled down. Nothing, however, has been able to destroy the health-restoring influences of the place; its situation on a wide, elevated common,

the efficacy of its mineral springs, and the comparative freedom from the usual watering-place dissipation, all combine to make it much sought after by the valetudinarian. The springs, all near each other, the first in the neighbourhood of the Rock, and the second and third in the grounds of the Pump-house, are three in number, and are respectively chalybeate, saline, and sulphureous; they are considered to be especially useful in scrofulous and cutaneous diseases. Great improvements have been made at Llandrindod through the indefatigable energy of Mr. R. Dansey Green Price, and the place is one of increasing resort. The sole drawback must needs be the short season, and the severity of the cold at other times of the year. The old ch., which has been supplemented by a large and modern ch., near the Pump-house, from designs by Butterfield, and built by voluntary subscriptions of visitors and neighbours, to the rt. of the road, is some little distance from the Pump-house, and is well placed on the spur of a hill, overlooking the plain, which is watered by the Wye, the Ithon, and the Yrfon.

Near it is a lead-mine, supposed to have been worked by the Romans; indeed the number of intrenchments and tumuli scattered over the common and in the vicinity prove that it was a station of some importance.

About 1½ m. to the N.E. is **Cefn-Llys Church**, placed at the bottom of a deep valley, a steep hill rising directly above it from the lovely banks of the Ithon. On its summit formerly stood Cefn-Llys Castle, which was built by Ralph Mortimer in 1242, and fell into the possession of the Crown in Edward IV.'s reign. It is said by Camden to have been in his day a castle in ruins.

5 m. E. of Llandrindod are the vestiges of **Maud's Castle**, near Llansaintfread, a castle so called after Maud de St. Valeri, wife of William de Braose; erected circ. 1216 A.D.

1½ m. W. across the Ithon, is **Llanyre**, situated on a Roman road which ran from Caerfagu, between Rhayader and Knighton, probably to Builth (Bullæum).

[A beautiful excursion can be made of 9 m. through Llanbadarn Fawr, and up the lovely valley of the Clywedog to the ruins of **Abbey Cwm Hir**, or the Abbey of the Long Dingle.

The **Abbey**, according to Leland, was founded in 1143 by "Cadwathelon ap Madok for lx monkes" of the Cistercian order, and was dedicated to St. Mary. Cadwallon is said to have borrowed his staff of monks from the Abbey of Whitland, in Pembrokeshire, and to have designed to render his Abbey in Meleneth equal in dimensions to those of greater kingdoms. In 1231 Henry II. marched his army into the country to punish Prince Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, who had committed depredations on the monks. A portion of the army having been lost through the treacherous guidance of one of the monks, the king was much enraged, and would have burnt the abbey, which was however saved by the payment of 300 marks. It was finally destroyed in 1401 by Owain Glyndwr in one of his predatory excursions. After falling into various hands, it became the property of Sir Wm. Fowler in 1680, concerning whom the following doggrel was current:—

> "There is neither a park nor a deer
> To be seen in all Radnorshire,
> Nor a man with five hundred a year
> Save Fowler of Abbey Cwm Hir."

The site of the ancient abbey was cleared out in 1827, showing the dimensions of the nave to have been 242 ft., and verifying the statement of the old antiquary "that no church

in Wales is seene of such length, as the foundation of the walles then begon doth show." It is said that only Durham, York, and Winchester could boast a greater length. The rich 13th-centy. arches in Llanidloes ch. are said to have been brought hence; indeed, this is the current account in Radnorshire and Montgomeryshire of any architectural or decorative work out of perfect keeping with the commonplace surroundings in other churches. Nothing but a few fragments remain of the ancient building, the stones of which were to a large extent incorporated in 1816 with the mansion close by, now the residence of G. H. Phillips, Esq. The site of the Abbot's apartments, of the conventual buildings, and of the fish-ponds which supplied the monks, is still visible, as are also portions of earthworks which crossed the valley for its defence at equal distances above and below, and enclosed a space of about 10 acres, which doubtless possessed the right of sanctuary.

A **Roman road** runs by the Abbey to the head of the dingle of the Clywedog, from whence it crosses into the valley of the Marteg by a pass called **Bwlch-y-sarnau**. Southwards it communicated with the Roman station of Caerfagu, while on the N. it led to Caersws, thus connecting the Silures and the Ordovices.

A little below the abbey, at the junction of the Crych with the Clywedog, is the modernised manor-house of **Devanner**, erected about the time of James I.

Abbey Cwm Hir is 9 m. from Llandrindod, 16 from Builth, and 7 from Rhayader.]

[From the turnpike on the road from Llandrindod to Newtown it is 2 m. to the village of **Llanddewi ystrad enny** (church unintcresting), which abounds in old intrenchments.

About ½ m. beyond, the road is carried on the l. bank of the Ithon, between 2 hills of considerable height, on each of which was a camp, while others are to be met with at the head of **Cwm Aran**, 3 m. to the rt. See above at Llanbister Rd. Stat.

13 m. (from Llandrindod) on rt. is the Church of *Llanbister* (already described), to the rt. of which, 1 m., is the old mansion of *Llynwent*, built in the reign of Elizabeth, which, though much altered, exhibits some traces of its former architecture.

14 m. **Llananno**, the ch. of which has an exceptionally good carved screen and rood-loft, with a cornice-beam carved with fruit and foliage, near which are the slight remains of a very strong fortress, called *Castle Dynbod*, demolished by Llewelyn ap Gruffydd.

Following the windings of the Ithon, the traveller next passes **Llanbadarn Fynydd**, where the ch. still contains traces of good E. Eng. and decorated work, though its eight-bayed oak roof is covered with whitewash, and at 20 m. bids adieu to the Ithon, and to the county of Radnor. From Camnant Bridge, where the road enters Montgomeryshire, it is about 6 m. to **Newtown**. (*Handbook for N. Wales.*)]

From Llandrindod the rly. continues its course S.W. on the high ground above the Ithon, past *Howey*, a thriving Welsh village, and *Howey Hall* (R. W. Banks, Esq.), above which is the ancient intrenchment of **Caer Ddu**, to

38 m. **Builth Road** Stat., where the Mid Wales Rly. is crossed; and Lechrwd Stat. is only divided by a flight of steps from the stat. of the

Central Wales Rly. From here it is 2 m. to ♁ Builth (Rte. 17). The Central Wales then crosses the Wye to

40 m. **Cilmeri** Stat. Close by is *Cilmeri* (H. Bligh, Esq.), and a short distance from the stat., not far from the little ch. of Llanynis to the rt., are **Cefn-y-bedd** and **Cwm Llewelyn,** sacred to every Welshman as being the scene of the death and burial of Llewelyn ap Gruffydd, the last Prince of Wales, in 1282. During the final struggle for Welsh independence, he came to his castle of Aberedw on the Wye, for the purpose of having an interview with the chieftains; and being nearly surprised by the English forces under Sir Edward Mortimer, rode away in flight, having had his horse's shoes reversed, in order to deceive his pursuers, as the snow lay deep upon the ground. The manœuvre was, however, treacherously made known to the English by Madoc Goch Min Mawr, the blacksmith whom Llewelyn employed. The unfortunate prince, after being refused admittance by the traitorous inhabitants of Builth, crossed the Yrfon near Llanynys, but with his party of followers was speedily overtaken by the English, one of whom, by name Adam de Frankton, killed him and cut off his head, although at first ignorant of the quality of his victim. His body was buried at Cefn-bedd-Llewelyn. A short distance to the l. is *Llangan-ten* church, situated on the bank of the Chweffru, which falls into the Yrfon.

On l. of rly. is the ch. of *Llanafon Fechan.*

43 m. ♁ **Garth** Stat. Garth is said to have been once a residence of the Princes of Wales. It was from Garth that Charles Wesley took his bride.

A road from hence leads over the *Mynydd Epynt* to Brecon, passing by the side of Cwm-graig-ddu precipice, terminating a narrow dingle, which, viewed from below, presents a sublime appearance. This range of hills, with Mynydd Bwlch-y-groes, forms an enormous mass of mountain extending on the rt. nearly the whole way from Llanwrtyd to Builth, and are an unmistakable feature in the landscape, though taken singly they are rather monotonous in their outline. 1 m. to rt. is *Llanlleonfel* church, rebuilt in 1875, which contains some mural monuments of the Gwynne family. Close by are traces of the Roman road Sarn Helen, connecting Maridunum with Deva, and uniting with the branch from Bannium.

45 m. ♁ **Llangammarch,** a village situated at the confluence of the Cammarch with the Yrfon, and rapidly growing in importance as a health resort on account of its mineral springs. The country round is wild and picturesque. Archæologists or visitors who want an object for a walk will find (2 m.) a **tumulus** on Caerau farm, between which and the Cammarch many fragments of Roman pottery have recently been found; and a British camp at Dolaeron (3 m.). The scenery becomes rather monotonous between Builth and Llanwrtyd. 4 m. to rt. is **Llwyn-Madoc,** the seat of Miss Thomas.

48½ m. ♁ **Llanwrtyd Wells** Stat. (about 1 m. from the wells). This little place, remote and isolated as it seems, yet enjoys a large share of the patronage of the valetudinarian population, and its waters, sulphur and chalybeate, are said to have great virtue. The scenery becomes broken and romantic as the visitor penetrates further into the mountains, following the river Yrfon as his guide. Many beautiful walks and excursions are to be made in this district, and Llanwrtyd will make a

convenient halting-place for the pedestrian who wishes to explore the upper part of the vales of Towey and Yrfon. The parish ch. is about a mile from the village at the entrance of a mountain gorge, the road to which is along the brawling Yrfon. The *Osmunda regalis* used to flourish on marshy ground near the wells, and there are still some rare flowers hereabouts. [This latter river rises in the mountains to the N.W. of *Drygarn*, about 11 or 12 m. from Llanwrtyd. The first object of interest is the wooded hill of *Pendinas*, which rises on the rt. bank of the stream, on the opposite side of which, at the farm of *Llwyngwychyr*, is the cave of a notorious robber called Rhys Gethin, who, not content with pillaging the king's subjects, was wont to insult the king himself by the following couplet :—

"The king owns all the island
Except what has been apportioned to Rhys."

5 m. on l. is the solitary house of *Llynderw*.

6 m., at the confluence of the Gwessin with the Yrfon, were the 2 small churches of *Llanddewi* and *Llanfihangel Abergwessin*, the former being only 30 ft. by 15, and of most primitive structure. But a single cruciform ch. has been recently built for the joint parishes. The material is the trap-rock of the district, internally cased with brick. There is an open wood-work roof, a handsome chancel arch, and a circular west window. Seven yews, said to be 1300 years old, stand in the ch.-yd. 4 to the N. and 3 to the S. of the church. A beautiful cross of Radyr stone in the ch.-yd. commemorates the late Henry Thomas, Esq., of Llwyn Madoc, and Evan Llewellyn Thomas, his son.

8 m. the river runs through the most wild and romantic scenery, the rocky sides of the glen rising to a considerable height, and at **Cam ddwr bleiddiau**, or the Wolves' Leap it runs to a depth of some 25 or 30 ft. between vertical rocks almost touching each other. It is said that here the last of the Welsh wolves committed *felo de se*. The men and women of the district are a fine healthy-looking race. The Grouse Inn at Abergwessin will supply the wants of pedestrians and sportsmen. About 3 m. to the N.E. the tourist can, if he chooses, ascend **Drygarn Mountain**, or the Three Cairns, and descend on the other side into the valley of the Claerwen, and on to Rhayader.]

[Another excursion can be made up Glen Henog, across Mynydd Trawsnant, into the Vale of Towey, down which the traveller proceeds to **Capel Ystrad-y-Ffin** and *Twm Shon Catti's Cave*. The cave is merely a rift in the rocks, and the renowned robber Twm Shon Catti was in sober phrase nothing more than Thomas Jones, Esq., who frequented this cave when courting the heiress of Ystrad y Ffin. The aspect of the locality, however, is wild and romantic enough to found any amount of legendary lore upon it.]

From Llanwrtyd the line ascends very high ground, passing the wild-looking **Sugar Loaf Hill**, the boundary between the counties of Caermarthen and Brecon. After emerging from a tunnel of some length, a fine prospect opens to the traveller. The rly. here may be described as quite a mountain line, and the view to the S., in the direction of Llandovery, is almost grand. The best peep is from 53 m., just before crossing a lofty stone viaduct. It then descends the valley of the Brân to

55 m. **Cynghordy** Stat. On l. is *Glanbrane* Park, once the splendid seat of the Gwynne family, from

whom it passed by purchase to Mr. Crawshay Bailey, who sold it in his turn. The Brân rises to the N.E., and after being joined by the Gwydderig and other streams forms a junction with the Towey, a little below the town of Llandovery.

59½ m. ♆ **Llandovery** Stat. Llandovery is situated on the Brân, and backed in the distance by the sharp-headed and huge Van mountain. On a knoll is the ruined shell of the **Castle,** of uncertain date, but whose origin may be traced to the Norman usurpers of this county, who were enabled, only by such means, to keep what they had seized, in defiance of the rightful owners. In 1159 Walter de Clifford was Lord of Cantref Bychan, and had his chief dwelling at Llandovery Castle, but was dispossessed of it by Rhys ap Gruffydd, in retaliation for divers wrongs; and for a long period it remained in the hands of Gruffydd's family. The slight vestiges of a castle are on an insulated rock, and consist of the ruined keep, and a round tower at the S. angle, as well as the traces of an outer ward.

The other buildings are the parish church, which is, strictly speaking, in the parish of *Llandingat*, and has a Perp. tower; the church of Llanfair-y-bryn to the N. of the town; and the **Collegiate Institution,** a handsome Tudor building, founded by T. Phillips, Esq., of Brunswick Square, London, in 1849, to provide a good classical education for Welsh boys, and now in the front rank of Welsh grammar schools. The first principal was Archdeacon John Williams, a distinguished scholar (author of 'Gomer' and 'Homerus'), and sometime principal of the Edinburgh Academy, and among his successors were the present Bishop and Dean of St. Asaph.

There is a curious old house at the E. end of the town, built by Vicar Prichard, whose Welsh poem, "The Vicar's Book, or the Welshman's Candle," is held in high reputation by his countrymen. Vicar Prichard was a light to the principality, and especially to his native town, in the early part of the 17th centy.

A mile distant, on the l. bank of the Towey, is *Tonn*, the residence of Mr. William Rees, the learned publisher, from whose press have issued so many Welsh works of high reputation.

1 m. to the N. is **Llanfair-y-bryn** ch., the former site of a Roman station, evidences of which have occasionally turned up in the form of bricks, coins, glazed ware, and traces of Roman roads. 2½ m. to the N. is a fine camp called Pen-y-Gaer.

[A very interesting excursion can be made from Llandovery up the valley of the Towey to **Ystrad-y-Ffin,** 10 m. At 7 m. are the lead-works of *Nant-y-mwyn* and Rhandirmwyn, belonging to Lord Cawdor, situated on the hillside above the stream, and worked by levels.

8½ m. on l. is **Cwm Gwenffrwd,** a wild mountain dingle of great beauty, up which a road runs for some little distance round Mynydd Mallaen to join the Cothi. A little above the spot where it reaches that river is a deep pool, called Pwll-fan, from whence hill-tracks can be followed to Loventium and Tregaron.

9½ m. on l. the united streams of the *Doethiau* and the *Pysgotwr* fall into the Towey, the former river rising in the large lake of **Llyn Berwyn,** from which place to Tregaron would be about 5 m.; but the pedestrian should not attempt to thread the mazes of this wild and difficult country without a guide, or at the very least an Ordnance map.

10 m. **Capel Ystrad-y-Ffin** and Twm Shon Catti's Cave, perhaps more easy of access from Llanwrtyd. Capel Ystrad-y-Ffin is superior in point of scenery to any part of the scenery of the Towey, which, here partially hid by conical hills, rushes near the wooded rock of Cerrig Towey into the embrace of the Doethiau. The cave of Twm, the son of Catherine, a Welsh "Turpin" who ended by being a magistrate and a thief-taker, is halfway up the W. side of this schistose rock, and is entered by a narrow cleft, which speaks well for the slender figure of the famous robber. The floor of the interior is about 4 yds. by 2½ yds., and the top of it is in parts sheltered from the weather only by overhanging trees. For a good account of Twm Shon Catti, Mr. Borrow's 'Wild Wales' (vol. iii.) may be consulted by the curious.] [1 m. from Llandovery the new road to Lampeter crosses the Towey by a handsome suspension bridge of 225 ft. span. 6 m. l. a road leads down the romantic little glen to the village of *Llanwrda* and *Glanrhyd* Stat. 7½ m. l. a road branches off to *Llansawyl*, and across a very mountainous and rugged district into the Vale of Teifi. From this elevated spot is a lovely view of the Vale of Cothi.

10 m. on rt., on an eminence covered with trees and brushwood, are the Roman mines of *Gogofau*, now again worked, and within the demesne is **Dolaucothy,** late the seat of J. Johnes, Esq. (Chairman of Quarter Sessions for county Carmarthen, and a branch of the ancient lineage of Sir Rhys ap Thomas), who was, in 1875, barbarously murdered by his butler. Many remains of Roman pottery, baths, and ornaments have been found here, affording proof that a Roman station must have existed in connection with the mines; and amongst other relics the family possesses a "Torch Aur," or golden chain or necklace. Tradition also points to a large tower built of brick, from whence it has been called "The Red Tower of South Wales." Not far from Dolaucothy is the site of a Roman villa, beneath the floor of one of the uncovered chambers in which are the remains of a hypocaust. Here, too, are two inscribed stones.

It is probable that the Romans worked these mines for gold; and the Geological Survey has discovered a specimen of free gold in the quartz of one of the lodes. "The majority of the workings, extending to a considerable depth for some acres over the side of the hill, are opened to the day, or worked like a quarry; and the rock through which the lodes run—a portion of the lower Silurian rocks—is in many places exposed, and exhibits beds much broken and contorted, though having a general tendency to dip northward. Here and there a sort of cave has been opened on some of the quartz veins, and in some cases has been pushed on as a gallery about 6 to 7 ft. high, and 5 or 6 ft. wide." —*Mem. of Geol. Survey.* Near the workings is a 4-sided stone indented with circular hollows, evidently caused by the stone being employed as a mortar for the purpose of breaking up the ore. Rather more than 1 m. behind Gogofau, is the church of **Cynfil Cayo,** a large ancient church, supposed to have belonged to a monastic institution, and having a good tower with stone vaulting. In this parish is the source of the Gwenfrwd, a tributary of the Towey.

10½ m. **Pumsant,** a fishing-station on the Cothi, where there is a little roadside inn, well reported of by Mr. Borrow. The name of the village commemorates "five saints" unknown.

The road, after ascending a long

range of hills, from the summit of which, at 14 m., is a magnificent view of the hills of Cardiganshire, descends to, 18 m., Lampeter (Rte. 22).]

Near Llandovery is *Blaenos*, the seat of John Jones, Esq.

On rt. is *Llwyn-y-brain* (Major Rice), and a little further on l. *Dol-y-carrog* (C. Bishop, Esq.).

63½ m. **Llanwrda** Stat., near a pretty village of that name, with a singular looking ch. and an enormous yew in the ch.-yd.

65 m. **Llangadock** Stat., a small decayed town, with one of the oldest parish churches in the county, prettily situated between the rivers Senni and Sawdde, and at the foot of the Black Mountains, over which a road is carried S. through Cwm Amman and Pontardawe to Neath. During the contest between the English and Welsh in the reign of Edward I., a complaint was made to the Archbishop of Canterbury of the atrocities of the English soldiers, who had plundered the church of Llangadock, and, after wounding the priest before the altar, converted it into a stable for their horses. There is the tradition of a *castle* at Llangadock; and **Abermarlais,** not far from Llangadock Bridge, was the moated and fortified residence of Sir Rhys ap Thomas. In the grounds of Abermarlais, near the entrance, is a Maenhir of good proportions.

About 3 m. S.W. of Llangadock, on the summit of a detached hill, called *Carn-Goch*, projecting in front of the mural ridge of Trichrûg, is a Roman encampment, in the form of a regular parallelogram, of the age of the Llandeilo flags. "One of the largest faces is a natural wall of quartz rocks, the beds of which, dipping to the N.W., present a bold precipitous face to the Vale of Towey. The other walls, which in places are still 20 to 30 ft. high, have been formed by piling large and shattered blocks, which, from their angularity, give a Cyclopean character to these desolate and venerable ruins."—*Murchison.*

2 m. up the Sawdde, to the N. of **Blaen Dyffryn Garn,** formerly stood a cromlech, which was destroyed by the stupidity of a peasant. According to the tradition of the country it was the last place in Britain where human sacrifices were offered, and even down to recent times, the spot was chosen for the reconciliation of friends by the contending parties shaking hands over the stone-heap.

67 m. **Glanrhyd** Stat.

68½ m. **Talley Road** Stat. 2 m. on rt., on an eminence, is *Manoravon* (D. Pugh, Esq.), and on l. *Taliaris*, the handsome seat of W. Peel, Esq., from whence it is 2 m. to

Llandeilo Junct., 70 m.

The picturesque town of ⚷ **Llandeilo Fawr** is curiously plastered, as it were, against the precipitous face of a high hill, rising above the rt. bank of the Towey. The road performs a steep ascent to reach the centre of the town, where, passing through the churchyard of St. Teilo (who gives his name to the place), it again descends to the level of the river, which it reaches at the foot of the bridge. This is one of the three fortunate places honoured by being the depository of St. Teilo's bones, the other two being Llandaff and Penally, near Tenby. The **Church** (from which there is a most lovely view both up and down the valley) was rebuilt in 1848, and is one of the best in the Principality, consisting of a nave, chancel, aisle, and transept, and an old steeple which belonged to the former building. The plan of Llandeilo church, like those of Llandingat and St. Peter's, Caermarthen, as well as of numbers

of churches in the Vale of Clwyd, is that of two nearly parallel aisles. A fine organ is placed on the ground-floor.

Llandeilo is chiefly celebrated for the beauty of its vicinity, and the number of interesting objects lying within a short distance of it. Immediately outside the town, on a curve of the rt. bank of the river, is **Dynevor** Castle and Park (Lord Dynevor), which is diversified with most beautiful woods and undulations, arising from the remarkable dislocations of the flagstone strata, which have divided it into separate knolls, covered from top to bottom with noble trees. The mansion is modern, but contains two ancient carved oak chairs, in good condition, said to have been used by Sir Rhys ap Thomas. Upon a headland are seen the ivy-clad ruins of the original Dynevor, or as it was formerly called, Newton Castle, the view of which has been considerably opened by the judicious clearings of the present Lord Dynevor. These ruins will repay a visit. The keys are kept by the gardener at the modern mansion; and the lodge entrance to the park is outside the town of Llandeilo to the N. From the lodge to the ruins (2 m.) the roadway is fair in the main, and only the last ½ m. requires climbing afoot, up to the castle-gate. Carriage visitors will do well to retain their vehicles. The original form of the castle was circular, and it was fortified with a double moat and rampart, but now the principal features are a square and round tower, overhanging the precipice, and some battlemented walls, part of the original enclosure. Tradition states that Dynevor was the residence, Dryslyn Castle the coronation-place, and Cerrig Cennen the stronghold of the Rhys family, while they were princes of S. Wales. The first castle on this spot was built by Roderic the Great, and descended from him to his son Cadell, but was destroyed and rebuilt more than once before the present structure arose. The story runs, that one of the first owners of Dynevor confined within these walls his father and his younger brother, having deprived the latter of his sight, to secure for himself the inheritance. The blind youth, however, knowing every passage and corner of the castle, groped his way to his parent's cell, burst open the door and set him free. It was seized in 1194 by the turbulent usurper Maelgwn, but wrested from him in 1204 by his brother Gruffydd's sons. In 1257 it was besieged by the English, but relieved by Llewellyn after a most sanguinary battle. The estate was granted by Henry VII. to Sir Rhys ap Thomas Fitz Urien, one of the first and most faithful supporters of his cause, to whom he owed the throne. His grandson was, nevertheless, one of the victims of the tyranny and cupidity of Henry VIII., who caused him to be seized on a frivolous charge of treason, and beheaded, and his estates confiscated, 1531. Lord Dynevor is lineally descended from Urien, Prince of Reged.

On the N. bank of the Towey, within this domain, Spenser has placed the cave of Merlin:—

"There the wise Merlin, whilom wont, they say,
To make his wonne low underneath the ground
In a deep delve far from the view of day,
That of no living wight he mote be found
When so he counsell'd with his sprights around.
And if thou ever happen that same way
To travel, go and see that dreadful place.
It is a hideous, hollow, cave-like bay,
Under a rock that has a little space
From the swift Tyvi, tumbling down apace
Amongst the woody hills of Dinevowr.
But dare not thou, I charge, in any case
To enter into that same baleful bowr,
For fear the cruel fiends should thee unware devour."

Faerie Queene, iii. cant. 3.

Merlin's Cave and Chair (a neighbouring rock) are near Abergwili, the point of the Gwili's junction with the Towey.

[A pleasant excursion can be made from Llandeilo to **Talley** Abbey, and through the Vale of Cothi to Gogofau (p. 151).

3 m. l. is the wooded domain of *Taliaris* (W. Peel, Esq.), and 8 m. *Talley Abbey*, placed in a most lovely situation in a deep vale, at the head of two lakes, formerly belonging to the abbey, which, in the time of Henry VII., was richly endowed. The ruins, though small, harmonise well with the scenery around; the only remains being the finely proportioned but undecorated arches which supported the central tower.

To the E. of the ch., which was built towards the close of last centy., stands a solitary yew, near which tradition places the grave of Dafydd ap Gwilym.

9 m. l., occupying the bank of a well-wooded knoll, and overhanging the Cothi, is *Rhydodyn* (Sir J. Williams Drummond, Bart., of Edwinsford, Caermarthen, and of Hawthornden, N.B.). From thence the road runs along the l. bank of the river to Pumsant and Gogofau, about 7 m.]

Before quitting Llandeilo, an interesting excursion may be made to the ruins of **Carreg Cennen Castle**, situated about 3 m. S.E. of the town, in a smaller valley lying behind a double barrier of hills, which is the S. prolongation of the ridge of Trichrug. From the very steep and rough ascent leading from the bridge, one of the best views is gained of the Vale of Towey, including the whole of Dynevor Park. After about 2 m. of ascent, a footpath, somewhat devious, strikes out of the road to the castle, which appears conspicuously rising out of the narrow ravine of the Cennen. It is one of the most striking and picturesque ruins in Wales, planted on an isolated and precipitous rock of mountain limestone, rising to a height of nearly 300 ft. above the stream, and surrounded by bleak and bare hills of sandstone. Its buildings, inaccessible on all sides but one, and almost impregnable before the discovery of gunpowder, occupy the entire platform which forms the summit of the rock, not more than an acre in extent, and consist of 2 square towers on the N. side, defending the entrance, a large round tower, and an octagonal tower. The very curious passage, descending through the solid rock for more than 100 ft., and called "The Well," is supposed by Sir R. Murchison to be a natural fissure, and not an artificial excavation. The only water to be obtained from it is the scanty droppings from the rock, and the only receptacle for it a basin, incapable of holding 2 gallons. It is said, however, that the spring, at which the passage terminates, though not abundant, is never-failing. It is lighted, at intervals, by lateral loopholes pierced through the limestone. The view from the top of the rock is most extensive, commanding interminable valleys and ridges, the vistas of which extend to the sea on one side, and a long reach of the Vale of Towey on the other.

The history of these ruins has not been recorded; antiquaries have claimed for them a British founder, Urien, one of the Knights of the Round Table, or a Roman origin, but the existing structure is probably not older than Henry III. or Edward I. Fragments of the great N. gateway and of windows to the S.W. bespeak the date of Edward II. There is very scant mention of this fortress even in local history, further than that in 1247 Rhys

Fychan recovered it from the English, to whom his mother had surrendered it. Antiquities, both Roman and British, in the form of coins, flint axe-heads, &c., have been found in the neighbourhood; and further up, near the source of the brook Cennen, are some curious excavations in the hill-side, supposed to have formed part of a British town.

About 1 m. to the S. of the castle, at **Cwrt Pen-y-Banc,** or Cwrt Bryn-y-Beirdd, are the remains of a considerable mansion nearly coeval with the fortress. Many of the original features of the building still remain, an ancient fire-place and massive floor of hewn oak, beside roof-timbers, and dressings of doorways and windows in red sandstone. Hard by, in a field, there is a trace of a kistvaen, locally known as the "graves of the Druids" (Towyn Beddau Derwyddon). About $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of Cerrig Cennen Castle is *Llygad Lloughor*, or the source of the Lloughor river, in a cavern, from whence it issues in a considerable stream (Rte. 21).

From Llandeilo a branch line runs to Swansea and Llanelly, the main line (Rte. 21) keeping along the S. bank of the Towey to Caermarthen, 84 m.

72 m. **Golden Grove** Stat. On l. is *Golden Grove*, a seat of the Earl of Cawdor, left to his great-grandsire by Mr. Vaughan, a descendant of the Earls of Carberry. The old house, which was burnt down, stood amidst the gardens seen on the l. of the turnpike road; but the modern house (Lord Emlyn) stands on a platform high up the hill-side. It is Elizabethan, with a number of gabled windows, and a tall central tower. From the terrace there is a magnificent view towards the N. and N.E. In the interior are some portraits of the Vaughan family, and one of "Sacharissa," Lady Dorothy Sidney; also a Canaletto and a Luca Giordano. Near the site of the old house is a grove of old oak-trees, where a walk formerly existed, called after that excellent prelate Jeremy Taylor, who resided here during a season of adversity after the death of his master, Charles I. Taylor's second wife, supposed to be a natural daughter of Charles, possessed a small estate in the neighbourhood, called *Mandinam*, which then belonged to Richard Vaughan, Earl of Carberry, and upon his bounty and hospitality the divine appears to have been supported when deprived of his living by the Puritans. Within the walls of Golden Grove he preached his yearly course of sermons when the churches were closed against him; and there he wrote several of his works, as 'The Life of Christ,' and his 'Manual of Daily Prayers and Litanies,' which he named 'Golden Grove,' in compliment to his patron. Just underneath the park is *Llanfihangel Aberbythyrch*, where Jeremy Taylor is said to have kept a school. It was restored a few years since under the directions of *Sir Gilbert G. Scott.*

A ferry across the Towey river takes the tourist to **Grongar Hill,** westward, near the margin of the Towey, overlooking the village of **Llangathen** (4 m. from Llandeilo), in the ch. of which is a 17th-centy. tomb to Bishop Rudd and his wife. It is not in itself an object of much interest, though rendered so by the verses of the poet Dyer, who was born in the mansion of **Aberglasney,** 1700. *Aberglasney* (now the residence of Mrs. Harris) belonged at an earlier period to Bishop Rudd. The view from Grongar Hill quite justifies the poet's description:—

"Grongar Hill invites my song,
Draw the landscape bright and strong;
Grongar, in whose mossy cells
Sweetly musing Quiet dwells.

Ever charming, ever new!
When will the landscape tire the view?
The fountain's fall, the river's flow,
The woody valleys warm and low;
The windy summit wild and high,
Roughly rushing on the sky;
The pleasant seat and ruin'd tower,
The naked rock, the shady bower,
The town and village, dome and farm,
Each gives each a double charm
As pearls upon an Æthiop's arm."

A hawthorn-tree on the top of the hill is pointed out as that under which he wrote the poem.

There are traces of a British camp on the hill-top, with a rectangular earthwork to the S.

A little further on, upon the top of a huge hill, which seems to block up the valley, and must have commanded the fords of the Towey, are the extensive earthworks, ivy-clad walls, and tower of **Dryslyn,** one of the Edwardian castles of this valley, erected by one of the princes of the house of Dynevor, and, according to the 'Annales Cambriæ,' a fortress that gave considerable trouble to the English to take and hold. On the opposite side of the river is a triangular tower or monument to Nelson, erected in his grounds by Sir William Paxton, the former possessor of *Middleton Hall*, to the l. of **Llanarthney** Stat. (74 m.), now the fine seat of E. Abadam, Esq. Not far hence, on *Glanzannan Farm*, is an inscribed cross, not unlike that at Carew; and on the E. bank of the Dules, below Dryslyn, is *Court Henry*, a mediæval house, wholly modernised, but retaining in the chapel, now used as a sitting-room, an early Dec. piscina. The line now crosses the Towey to

78 m. **Nantgaredig** Stat.

81 m. **Whitemill** Stat. On rt. is **Merlin Hill** (Gallt Fyrddin), fabled to have been the birthplace of the magician.

82 m. **Abergwili** Stat., a large village situated at the confluence of the Gwili with the Towey, containing the palace and grounds of the Bp. of St. David's, built in 1830. There is a pretty church with a spire, built in E. E. style. On the opposite side of the river is Llangynnor Church.

84 m. Caermarthen Junct. (Rte. 2).

ROUTE 20.

FROM SWANSEA TO YSTRADGUNLAIS.

(*Swansea Vale Railway.*)

A pleasant excursion can be made up the vale of the Tawe by the Swansea Vale Railway, which runs along the opposite side of the river to the S. Wales line, crossing it at 3 m. **Llansamlet** Stat. The mountains begin to assume a more picturesque aspect and bolder outlines, while the reappearance of wood and vegetation bears evidence of the diminished effect of the copper-works.

4½ m. **Birchgrove** Stat.

5½ m. **Glais** Stat. On l. are *Ynyspenllwch* tin-works, one of the largest establishments in Wales, till lately the property of the Llewelyns. On the *Gellionen* mountain, which rises behind, is a mineral spring.

At 8 m. **Pontardawe** Stat., the road from Neath to Cwm Amman crosses the Tawe by a bridge with one arch, 60 ft. in span, with the cylindrical holes over the haunches,

similar to the one at Pontypridd (and by the same architect, Edwards). At Pontardawe is a handsome church, erected by the munificence of J. Parsons, Esq.

On a hill by the roadside, 2 m. l., called Mynydd Maen Coch, is a large and unusually perfect stone circle, known as **Carn Llechart.** In the centre of it was a kistvaen, 5 ft. long. Another, 2 m. E. of it, is situated on a mountain called Mynydd y Gwyryd. The road from here runs by the side of the Swansea Canal, and under the bold hill of Craig-garw, affording beautiful views of the Caermarthenshire Beacons, to 12 m. **Ystalyfera** Stat. Here are large ironworks, which possess 8 furnaces in blast, and employ a large population. The rly. now turns to the l. up the wild glen of **Cwm Twrch,** which is well worth exploring, into the recesses of the mountain ranges of *Tyle-garw* and *Carreg-las,* 14½ m. The *Twrch* is not far S. of the source of the Usk, and is supposed to get its name (= Hog) from the force of its rushing stream. *Pont Twrch* is a bridge over it, not far from Ynisceedwin. At *Gwys* Stat. are some collieries.

18 m. Brynamman Junct. with the Amman branch of the Caermarthenshire Rly. (Rte. 21.) The high road continues up the valley of the Tawe to

13 m. **Ynisceedwin** Ironworks, where the Tawe is joined by the mountain-stream of the Twrch, and the traveller enters Breconshire. The coal-measures, which in the S. and E. divisions of the coal-field are bituminous, are here anthracitic, a species of coal which for many years was considered practically useless. The late Mr. Crane, of these works, made the discovery in 1836 that, by using hot instead of cold blast, the anthracite coal made remarkably good iron,—a circumstance which has since trebled the value of these beds, and caused a large increase of furnaces in this district. The Ynisceedwin works, however, are now standing idle. *Ynisceedwin House* was the seat of the Gough family, into which it was brought by the heiress of the ancient family of the Aubreys. It was still earlier the patrimony of Gruffydd Gwyr in the 13th centy.

14 m. At **Ystradgunlais,** the antiquary will find in the church two inscribed stones—one built into the outside of the E. wall, marked HIC JACIT, and another, forming one of the steps of a staircase on the S. side, with the inscripton ADIVNE. On the Caermarthenshire border are one or two carneddau, and the remains of British encampments.

16 m. **Lamb and Flag** Inn, situated at the head of the Swansea Canal, 1½ m. from which the little river Llech joins the Tawe. The tourist should by all means follow this romantic little stream as far as *Capel Colbren,* and visit the waterfall of *Scwd Hen Rhŷd* (Rte. 13). He can then return from *Penwylt* or *Onllwyn* Stat., on the Neath and Brecon line. The very source of the Tawe, under the precipices of Y Fan *Brechiniog* (2631 ft.), can be reached by the mountain road which runs under Cribarth and past *Penwylt Stat.* (Brecon and Neath Ry.) and the village of Capel Cellwen to Trecastle. Another road crosses over into the Crai and Senni valleys to *Derynnock* (Rte. 13).

ROUTE 21.

FROM SWANSEA TO LLANELLY AND LLANDEILO, BY PONT-AR-DULAIS.

(Central Wales Railway.)

Quitting **Victoria St.** Stat., at Swansea, the line takes a course not far from that of the S. Wales Rly., passing 2 m. **Mumbles Road** Stat., 4 m. **Killay** Stat., and 5 m. **Dunvant** Stat.

6½ m. Gower Road Junct. For description of Gower, see Rte. 2. Here a short branch to the l. is given off to the little coal-shipping and fishing port of **Penclawdd** 3 m.

8 m. **Gorseinon** Stat. On l. are the village and bridge of *Lloughor* (Rte. 2), the estuary of which river the line now follows up, crossing it at

11½ m. Pont-ar-dulais Junct.

[With the Llanelly branch 7 m. The traveller to Llanelly now skirts the W. bank of the estuary, which is here a sluggish mud-banked stream, to 2 m. **Llangennech** Stat. On rt. is *Llangennech Park*, the seat of Mrs. Nevill.

4 m., at **Bynea** Stat., the line quits the waterside and the vale of the Lloughor, and runs over a desolate and unprepossessing district to 6 m. **Llanelly Docks** (Rte. 2). A considerable business is carried on here in coal-shipping from the Gwendraeth and the Amman villages. It will give some idea of the difficulties with which the promoters of the Docks have had to contend, to mention that, in 1813, when the first Harbour Act was applied for, the present harbour was nothing but an open estuary, nearly silted up, over which no vessel exceeding 100 tons could pass at high water. Now ships of 800 or 1000 tons readily find access.

7 m. Llanelly Junct. with the S. Wales line (*Inns:* Stepney Arms, Thomas Arms).]

At **Pont-ar-dulais,** the line is crossed by the turnpike-road from Swansea to Caermarthen. The scenery becomes more pleasing as the vale narrows, and the Lloughor puts on the character of a mountain-stream, while the hills, which are of considerable height, gradually approach each other as the traveller nears the great range of the Black Mountains.

16½ m. Pantyfynnon Junct., whence a branch line of 5 m. runs up the narrow vale of **Cwm Amman,** principally for the purpose of bringing the anthracite coal to the sea. It runs up into the very heart of the mountains, containing some of the most beautiful scenery in the country, and a pedestrian may with advantage cross the high ground intervening between the Amman and the Twrch, and descend into the Swansea valley at Ynyscedwin, or follow the turnpike road from Neath across the mountains to Llangadock in the Vale of Towey.

1 m. **Cross Inn** Stat.

5 m. **Garnant** Stat.

Cwm Amman appears so remote from the bustle of the world, that the visitor is almost surprised to find a neat church and a rather extensive market-house for the use of the inhabitants. At the very head of the valley is

7 m. **Bryn Amman** Stat., the population of which is employed in ironworks. Here the Swansea Valley Rly. joins this branch.

18 m. **Dyffryn** Stat. The line near this crosses the Lloughor, which rises some 4 m. to the N.E., in a curious subterranean hollow called *Llygad Llwchwr*, or the Eye of the Lloughor.

20 m. **Llandebie** Stat. is a pretty village placed just underneath the escarpment of mountain-limestone that forms the northern escarpment of the S. Wales coal-fields. On rt. is *Glynhir* (W. Du Buisson, Esq.). It is, as the name imports, a "long ravine," scooped out by the river Llwchwr, on the slope of which this mansion stands.

21½ m. **Derwydd Road** Stat. *Carreg Cennen Castle* (Rte. 19) is 3 m. to the rt.

23½ m. **Fairfach** Stat., just outside the town of Llandeilo, where the tourist may join the railway along to the Towey to Carmarthen or Builth (Rte. 19).

ROUTE 22.

FROM CAERMARTHEN TO ABERYSTWYTH, BY LAMPETER.

(Great Western and Manchester and Milford Railway.)

The rly. leaves the S. Wales line at Caermarthen Junct., and after calling at the town (Rte. 2) turns to the N. up the pretty valley of the Gwili, leaving the village and ch. of Abergwili to rt. From hence the Central Wales Rly. branches off to rt., en route for Llandeilo and Craven Arms.

On rt. are *Castell Pigyn* (W. O. Price, Esq.) and the beautiful woods and gorge of *Cwm Gwili* (G. Philipps, Esq.).

4 m. **Bronwydd Arms** Stat. There is a camp on the hill-side to the l. The glen becomes extremely pretty and winding in the higher part of its course, and is well worth exploring. As the rly. reaches

7 m. **Conwil** Stat., on l. is the village of *Cynwyl Elfed*, through which a highroad runs over the Penboyr Hills to **Newcastle Emlyn** (Rte. 23).

9½ m., nearly at the head of the Gwili, is **Llanpumpsaint** Stat., from whence the line is carried under a

very bleak range of hills by a tunnel to

14¾ m. Pencader Junct., where the Manchester and Milford Rly. begins. The G. W. R. branch goes on to Llandyssul. An Act has been obtained to continue it from that place to Newcastle Emlyn. (Rte. 23). There is a small mound or fort close to the stat. The country is for the most part bare and uninteresting, containing a thin and scattered population; though from the summits of the hills and sometimes from the rly. many a lovely view is gained into the Vale of Teifi both up and down the river.

16½ m. **New Quay Road** Stat., formerly called *Cross Inn*, about 13 m. from New Quay, where a van goes in summer. 3½ m. across country from Llandyssul (a trap from which place would be a saving of distance in getting from Cardigan to the Manchester and Milford Rly.), the rly. descends into the valley of the Teifi near the village of *Llanfihangel-ar-Arth* on l. It was in this neighbourhood that the unfortunate Sarah Jacobs, the Welsh fasting girl, died, 1869.

18½ m. **Maes-y-crugiau** Stat. On l. is the village of **Llan-llwni,** with its church very picturesquely situated on a rock over a gorge in the Teifi above Pontllwni, and *Bwlch Bychan* (John Pugh Vaughan Pryse, Esq.). Passing l., on the opposite side of the river, *Highmead*, the beautiful seat of Col. Herbert Davies Evans, the tourist reaches

22 m. **Llanybyther** Stat., near which, and on the Highmead estate, is *Lanfechan*, or Lanvaughan, an old seat, now a farm-house, but interesting as containing within the grounds a famous Ogham stone, with a clean-cut Latin inscription, and Ogham character on the margin.

The village of **Llanybyther,** the scene of large fairs and markets, is a pleasant little fishing-station, on the l. bank of "Teifi's clear stream."

On rt., and ½ m. from the ch. to the S.W., is **Penygaer**, a conical eminence, commanding a wide and varied view, the summit defended by a fosse and vallum. At the base are traces of **Sarn Helen,** which was carried in nearly the same direction as the turnpike road, in its course from Maridunum (Caermarthen) to Loventium (Llanio).

27 m. ♁ **Lampeter** Stat., also called Lampeter Pontstephen. It is a clean insignificant little town, placed in a very pretty valley girt on all sides by wooded hills. The assizes and quarter-sessions for Cardiganshire are now held in the fine new Town Hall built by Mr. Harford. The chief object of attraction is **St. David's College,** founded in 1822, by Bishop Burgess, originally for the instruction of students to be ordained from hence principally with a view to supply the Welsh Church with ministers capable of officiating in the Welsh language; the education being bestowed at a lower rate than at either of the English universities. But it has considerably enlarged its programme. A charter, granted in 1852, enabled it to confer the degree of B.D.; and in 1865 this privilege was supplemented by another charter, allowing the degree of B.A. to be conferred after an examination conducted by examiners chosen in equal numbers by Oxford and Cambridge respectively. Candidates for this degree may graduate in classics, mathematics, natural science, modern history, or theology, after having passed two previous examinations analogous to the Oxford responsions and moderations, conducted by the same examiners as for the B.A. degree. The College is

also affiliated to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. A few students have special leave to receive the College License in Divinity after a two years' course; but for the B.A. degree a residence of three years is required. There are no tests required at St. David's College, nor are its benefits confined to those who propose to enter Holy Orders. The two-year students are disqualified for prizes, must be 21 years of age, and require a special recommendation from the bishop. The cost of a student's board, residence, and expenditure at Lampeter College, is not more than 45*l.* or 50*l.* per annum, if he practises economy; and as 800*l.* per annum is given in scholarships and exhibitions, an intelligent student may go through his course with little private cost. The *College Library* is remarkably good, and consists (with constant additions) of the munificent benefactions to it of Bishop Burgess, Thos. Phillips, Esq., of Brunswick Square, and Mr. Scandrett Harford. There are good portraits of Bishop Burgess and Bishop Harold Brown in the dining-hall. The library is rich in theological and historical books, the Councils, Fœdera, and so forth, and contains several ancient MSS. and early printed books. The college, a handsome quadrangular building, designed by *Cockerell*, was erected at a cost of 20,000*l.*, and occupies the site of the ancient castle, no vestige of which remains, except perhaps a large mound in the College garden. A new wing of the College, called the Canterbury Building, was opened in 1887. The College contains about 120 students. Within the grounds is the St. David's College School, opened about 5 years ago by the College Board to supply the want of intermediate education in the neighbourhood. Lampeter is a good fishing-station, and comfortable headquarters for the tourist who wishes to visit Tregaron.

[*S. Wales.*]

[The road to the little watering-place of Aberaeron passes

1 m. l. **Falcondale,** the residence of the late J. Battersby Harford, Esq., lord of the manor, on which there is a camp of oval form, on a farm called Llanfairfach. It is then carried up a series of high and bleak hills for 4 m., when a refreshing view is gained of the valley of the **Aeron,** affording, with its cultivated land, a pleasant contrast to the barren mountains around. The source of the Aeron is on Mynydd Bach, a range of hills between the Teifi and the sea. The scenery, while never very romantic, is always pretty and agreeable. At 5 m. a branch-road runs by *Llanllyr* (Col. John Lewes) in a direct line to Aberystwyth, so that the traveller who wishes to save time, would do well to follow it as far as Llanrhystid, where the Aberaeron road rejoins it. Llanllyr was originally a Cistercian nunnery, mentioned by Leland as Lanclere. The vale of Aeron is dotted with several pleasant seats: amongst them, on l. at 7 m., is *Brynog* (Capt. Herbert Vaughan); *Tyglyn-Aeron* (Thomas Winwood, Esq.) on rt.; and *Llanaeron*, on l. (Mrs. Lewis). Near *Cilcennin*, where was a great house, Plas Cilcennin, in the 17th centy., is *Tri-chrug Aeron* (the three cairns of Aeron). At 11 m. **Llanwchaeron,** the scenery is highly picturesque, the road being carried on a precipitous escarpment overlooking the Acron, both banks of which are beautifully wooded.

13 m. **Aberaeron** (Rte. 25).]

The rly. continues up the valley of the Dulas passing on the rt. of the Teifi, *Derry Ormond*, the seat of J. Inglis Jones, Esq.; and at the head of the vale is a conspicuous obelisk, erected by Mr. Jones, to the memory of the late possessor of the estate.

29 m. **Derry Ormond** Stat.

To rt. are the silver-lead mines of *Llanvair-Clydogau*, not now worked. From hence the *Sarn Helen* is followed all the way to Llanio; a junction apparently taking place between the Roman road which leads from Maridunum, and that from the station of Llanfairar-y-bryn, near Llandovery.

The mine of Llanfair, the property of W. Jones, Esq., has yielded a large quantity of silver. The whole of this parish and the neighbouring one of Cellan are very rich in monumental stones, cairns, and camps, all betokening the proximity to an important high-road and station. The principal of these are **Llech Cynon**, an enormous stone on a circular raised tumulus, but not of the cromlech type; the Bedd-y-Forwyn, or the Virgin's Grave, to the S. of this; the large stone called Byrfaen (15 ft. in length and 4 ft. in width); some large cairns on Waun Cellan mountain; and Castell Allt-goch and **Castell Goytre** on the hills on the opposite bank of the Teifi.

34 m. **Pont Llanio** Stat.

To the rt., under Craig Twrch, is the little village of **Llanddewi Brefi**, which, insignificant as it now appears, once held a high position amongst the ecclesiastical councils of Wales. Here it was that St. David held a synod in the year 519 for the purpose of checking the increasing heresy of Pelagius; and here the holy Dubricius, tired of the cares of office, gave up to him his archbishopric of Caerleon, and retired to solitude and meditation in Bardsey Island. Near the ch., founded by Thomas Bec, Bishop of St. David's, in 1187, but since modernised, are the ruins of an ancient collegiate establishment erected at the same time. They are still called Lluest Cantorion or Chanters' Residence. According to tradition, the ground on which the ch. was built rose up by miracle into a hillock at the preaching of St. David, whilst the erection of the ch. was also attended by a miracle. One of the yoke of oxen hauling stone up the hill failed, and died under its burden. The other bellowed out nine times, and, lo! the hill parted in the midst, so as to ease the ascent and draught for the one ox. "Brefi" is the Welsh for bellowing. [From Llanddewi a pedestrian can make a lovely excursion up the vale of the Brenig, passing the old mansion of *Voelalt*, across the mountains, descending by the glen of the Pysgottwr to the Vale of Towey. The way is lonely and intricate, and ought not to be undertaken without an Ordnance map or a guide.]

1 m. to l., and on the turnpike-road between Lampeter and Tregaron, is the farmhouse of *Llanio*, occupying the site of the ancient station of *Loventium*, through which along the W. bank of the Teifi, the Sarn Helen runs from Maridunum to Machynlleth. Specimens of pottery, coins, bricks, &c., have been turned up by the plough; and the foundation of a building was discovered in a field called Caer Castell. Three stones, one of which is used as a seat at the farm-door, are mentioned by the late Sir Sam. Meyrick, inscribed "Caii artis manibus primus," "Overioni," and "Cohors Secundæ Augusta fecit quinque passus."

36 m. ♁ **Tregaron** Stat., a little town prettily situated on the river Berwyn, about 1 m. above its confluence with the Teifi. The ch. has an embattled tower 60 ft. high, a nave and chancel. In the ch.-yd. are four ancient monumental stones. The most famous historical celebrity of Tregaron was Twm Shon Catti, a famous swindler and robber who flourished in the 17th centy. By many he has been described as the

leader of banditti who infested the country, but in reality he was a gentleman, an antiquary, and a poet, who in the earlier part of his life was rather a "mauvais sujet" and lived a good deal by his wits. He subsequently reformed, married an heiress, and became high sheriff of Cardiganshire, as well as Mayor of Brecon. Barrow, who evidently sympathised with Twm's vagabondage, shows that the myth about the "severed hand" appears in the folk tales of most nations. From Tregaron the tourist may walk up the valley of the Berwyn to **Llyn Berwyn,** a lake of considerable size in the heart of the mountain, and from thence make his way to the Towey or the head of the Doeithiau. Another lake near Tregaron is *Maes Llyn*, "The Lake of the Field," where, according to tradition, the town originally stood.

42 m. **Strata Florida** Stat. The abbey is nearly 3 m. from the stat.

On the l. are the interesting ruins of **Strata Florida Abbey,** sheltered on three sides by swelling hills, and washed on the S. by the infant Teifi. The original foundation of Cistercians was on the river Flûr, about 2 m. to the S., and still bears the name of "Yr Hen Monachlog," or the old Monastery. This was in all probability founded by Rhys ap Tudor, whose grandson, Rhys ap Gruffydd, erected the abbey in 1194. The name of Strata Florida is the Latinised form of Ystrad Flûr—a name probably adapted by the later Abbey from its predecessor. It was the earlier monastery which was visited by Giraldus and Archbishop Baldwin.

For many a long year the "rich monastery of Strat-flur" was the centre of civilization, and of Welsh national life in those parts, the refuge and the last resting-place of some of the noblest of the Welsh princes. To the munificence of the House of Cadell it owed its great possessions; its monks and abbots seem to have been mainly Welshmen or to have had very Welsh names, and with the decay and death of Welsh independence its prosperity waned and fell to the ground.

The monks of the abbey owned almost all the country round; and, according to Leland, "al the montaine ground betwixt Alen (Elan river) and Strateflur longgeth to Stratefleere," as well as a large tract of hill between Builth and Llandovery. Whilst in the zenith of its prosperity, it was famous for being the repository of the national records of Wales from 1156 until 1270. The 'Annales Cambriæ' may have been more or less compiled by its monks, and the Rolls edition of the 'Brut y Tywysogion,' transcribed from the 'Red Book of Hergest,' is believed to have come from the Abbey.

In Leland's time "the chirch was large, side ilid, and crosse ilid;" but all that was, until quite recently, to be seen of this once famous building was a very beautiful round-headed Norm. arch, which formed the W. entrance to the ch. Happily in 1887 Mr. Stephen Williams, F.R.I.B.A., began to carry into execution an idea long cherished by him of laying bare the foundations of the abbey. With some help from the Camb. Archæol. Assoc., but chiefly thanks to his own skill and perseverance, the accumulated soil has been cleared away and the ground plan of the building and much evidence of its decorative details been brought to light. Much still remains to be done, but the work is at present stayed for want of funds. The style is transitional from Norm. to E.E. Much of the work was executed in alternate bands of coloured stone as at St. David's, and throughout the building, says Mr. Williams, "there seems a wonderful resemblance in point of plan and general design to that portion of the Cathedral built by Bishop Peter de Leia, who was con-

secrated in 1176." The total length of the abbey is 213 ft., and that of the nave 132 ft. 6 in., a measurement only surpassed among Welsh ecclesiastical buildings by Abbey Cwm-hir. The church consisted of a nave and aisles, N. and S. transepts, central tower, chancel, and a chapter-house beyond the S. transept. On the eastern and outer side of the S. transept have been found several monks' graves, of a very early date, and some of which have their headstones still standing. In the chapels of the transepts were found tile-pavements, singularly rich and beautiful in design and very well preserved, probably of the 14th centy., some depict costumes of the period, others armorial bearings. Mr. Williams finds in the internal details of the abbey, which were undoubtedly of remarkable richness and fancy, a distinctly Celtic character. The site of the abbey belongs to W. Powell, Esq., of Nanteos; and the old abbey house is now a farm-homestead. Within the precincts of the abbey stands a small and mean parish ch. There is a curious old picture on panel in the farm-house, which represents Temptation, and is said to have belonged to the monks, but is evidently of much later date. At Strata Florida, under a sacred yew-tree (as Borrow surmises) was buried Dafydd ap Gwilym, a famous bard of the Cymri. The abbey may be seen on application at the farm-house where several interesting relics are preserved, and where an excellent guide compiled by Mr. Williams may be bought.

From the abbey the pedestrian can make an excursion to the *source of the Teifi*, 3 m., which emerges from Llyn Teifi, a mountain lake of considerable size on the confines of Brecknockshire and Cardiganshire, while tributary streams issue from three smaller lakes, Llynhir, Llyn-y-gorlan, and Llyn-Egnant. These lakes have a wild and desolate character peculiarly their own: "of al the pooles none stondeth in so rokky and stony soile as Tyve doth, that hath withyn hym many stonis. The ground al aboute Tyve, and a great mile of towards Stratfler, is horrible, with the sight of bare stonis, as Cregeryri mountaines be." —*Leland.* From this lake, which, like most mountain tarns, bears the uncanny character of being unfathomable, issues the clear stream of Teifi, which brawls over many a rocky bed ere it becomes the noble river that flows under Cardigan bridge.

"Sith I must stem thy stream, clear Teivy, yet before
The Muse vouchsafe to seize the Cardiganian shore,
She of thy source will sing in all the Cambrian coast:
Which of thy castors once, but now canst only boast
Thy salmons, of all floods most plentiful in thee."—*Drayton.*

"There is very good trouttes and elys" (writes Leland), "but no other fisch." But this does not hold as regards "other fisch" at the present time.

Beavers are said to have been at one time plentiful in this river, a fact alluded to not only by the poet, but also by Giraldus Cambrensis:—

"Inter universos Cambriæ seu etiam Loegriæ fluvios, hic solus castores habet."

After passing *Pont-rhyd-fendigaid*, or the Bridge of the Blessed Ford, the traveller reaches a rather dirty little hamlet, with a roadside inn, convenient only for those anglers who wish to try their fortune in the Teifi, which flows through a very flat and marshy district.

The rly. now turns to the l., quitting the valley of the Teifi and crossing wild and high ground to that of the Ystwyth. At **Ystrad Meurig** is a celebrated grammar-school

founded by one Edward Richards in 1757. This school had the good fortune to find an able head-master in the Rev. D. Williams, the father and tutor of several eminent scholars, amongst whom were the Archdeacon of Cardigan (Homerus Williams) and his brother David. A cell formerly existed here, belonging to the Abbey of Strata Florida, from whence the village was called Yspytty Ystrad Meurig, the third "hospitium" that was established in this district, the others being Yspytty Cynfyn and Yspytty Ystwyth. The scanty ruins of the Castle built by Gilbert, Earl of Clare, stand upon an eminence in the village, and on a hill 1 m. distant, called *Penyffallwydd*, is a camp.

The high ground of *Ffair-rhos*, 2 m. to the E., between Yspytty Ystwyth and Pont-rhyd-y-fandigaid, commands on the N. the Montgomeryshire hills, as far as Cader Idris, and on the S. the valley of the infant Teifi, with the long, desolate ranges of hills that extend almost without a break from Llandovery into Shropshire.

On rt. is **Llanafan**, the ch. of which contains an ancient silver communion dish, presented by the Earls of Lisburne.

47 m. **Trawscoed** Stat.

On the rt. bank of the river is *Crosswood* (Welsh, Trawscoed), the beautiful park of the Earl of Lisburne, the principal land-owner of the district. On the opposite side is *Birchgrove*.

Passing *Llidiarde*, the seat of J. Parry, Esq., the line reaches

50 m. **Llanilar** Stat., to the l. of which is the *Parish Ch.* erected probably in the 14th centy., and one of the trio of churches in Wales dedicated to St. Hilary—(Trefilan, near Lampeter, and a ch. in Glamorganshire are the others). The old ch., which had a fine open roof, arranged in diapered cross-bars, a seven-sided font, and a holy water stoup, was restored in 1873–4, from designs by Mr. R. Kyrke Penson, in such a way as to retain the good external features, and to remove the unsightly excrescences of Churchwarden's Gothic from the interior. The widow of the revered author of the 'Cathedral,' Mr. Isaac Williams, was one of the principal subscribers to this good work, and the paten used for Holy Communion was the gift of the Rev. Lewis Gilbertson, late Fellow of Jesus College, Oxford. The chalice, which is of silver, and set about its edge with Swedish copper coins, bears this inscription: "The gift of John Parry, Messenger in Ordinary to their Majesties George I. and II., to the parish church of Llan Hilarey, in the county of Cardigan, where he was born. This chalice was brought by him from Stockholm, in the year '20, where he resided many years in the above capacity."

52 m. **Llanrhystid Road.** (Rte. 25.)

56 m. ✝ **Aberystwyth** Stat., is very prettily situated on the sea-shore, between the hills at the mouth of the Rheidol, which, after passing under a bridge of 5 arches, here unites with the Ystwyth in an artificial channel, and both together fall into the Bay of Cardigan. The union of the 2 rivers was effected in order (by strengthening the current and increasing the volume of water) to scour out the harbour. It is a sort of Welsh Brighton, resorted to in the summer-time for sea-bathing, and abounds in lodging-houses, of which the best are to be found on the Terrace, a crescent facing the sea and following the curve of the beach. In front of it are the bathing-machines, and hot salt-water baths are provided near at hand and in the town. From the S. end of the Terrace an elegant promenade pier runs into the sea. The beach shelves

down very rapidly ; and as the tide comes in at times with great force, bathers should be cautious. The beach is remarkable for the quantity of pebbles to be found on it—such as cornelians, onyx, &c. ; the searching for which is often the principal occupation of visitors, who, particularly after a storm, wander up and down with bent backs and downcast eyes. The harbour having become obstructed by the formation of a bar at its mouth, a new pier has been constructed, projecting on one side 300, and on the other 100 yds., into the sea. A chief object of this pier, which extends in a N.N.W. direction towards Bardsey Island, is to protect the outfall of the united rivers, Rheidol and Ystwyth, from the swell of the ocean. On a lofty rock overlooking the sea stand the ruins of the **Castle**, originally founded by Gilbert de Strongbow, a greedy and unscrupulous Norman baron, who received a licence from his master, Henry I., founded on the charter of "the strong hand," to seize as much as he could of the lands of the Welsh chieftain Cadwgan ap Bleddyn ; and the result was, that, by the aid of a superior force, he dispossessed him of all Cardiganshire, and secured it to himself by building strong castles. The existing remains, consisting of a gateway, a tower 40 ft. high, with an arched doorway grooved for two portcullises on the N.W., and fragments of other towers and walls, are probably of the time of Edward I., who built a castle here after granting a hard-wrung peace to Llewelyn ap Gruffydd. Mr. Bushel, the fortunate proprietor of the neighbouring lead and silver mines, established here a mint, with permission of Charles I., to pay his workmen, by coinage of bullion drawn from mines in the Principality. He afterwards showed his gratitude by lending the king 40,000*l.*, by clothing the whole of his army, and by raising, at his own expense, a regiment among his miners. The pieces thus coined are marked with the Prince of Wales' Feathers, and are common in the cabinets of collectors. They bear date from 1638 to 1642, when the mint was transferred to Shrewsbury. The castle was besieged by the Parliamentarians during the civil war, and was bombarded by Cromwell from the neighbouring height of Pendinas—such at least is the local tradition. It is more likely, however, that the castle was first mined and then blown up, as huge fragments, still visible, militate against the Pendinas theory. From the time of its capture its present decay may be dated. The hill and the ruins are now rendered accessible by agreeable walks. Adjoining the castle are the public rooms and the ch., of which all that can be said of it is, that it offers suitable accommodation. There is a second ch. in Gray's Inn Lane, from designs by *Butterfield*. Below the castle, at the end of the Terrace, stands the **University College of Wales,** a very fine English-Gothic building, with a remarkable history. The central portion was originally an erection of Nash, the architect of Regent's-street, London, for Sir Uvedale Price, the author of a well-known work "On the Picturesque." This was converted, by the addition of two wings, under the direction of Mr. S. P. Seddon, into a gigantic hotel. But the hotel proving a failure, the building was finally purchased for the University College of Wales, the first of such Colleges founded in the Principality. In 1885 the whole of the interior of the N. wing was destroyed by fire. After much discussion it was decided to rebuild it for the College, with such alterations to the rest of the building as were required to make the whole really suitable for educational purposes. This result has been most successfully attained, owing to the skill of Mr. Seddon, and at a cost of

not much more than half of what a new, and probably less imposing, building would have involved. The greater part of the building is already available for the work of the student. The college was originally opened in 1872, and though it has now to face the competition of its two younger sisters at Bangor and Cardiff, its numbers have grown steadily. It has now (1889) 175 students. It was originally founded entirely by voluntary effort, but now receives 4000*l.* a year from the Government, and has lately been granted a Royal Charter.

In the environs of the town, on the banks of the Rheidol, and approachable by a pleasant inland walk along a mill-stream, is **Plas-crug,** a ruined castellated house, said to have been the residence of Owain Glyndwr; and near it is a chalybeate spring, whose waters are said to resemble in their properties those of Tunbridge Wells.

Many pleasant walks and excursions can be taken in the neighbourhood. The hill on the N. of the town, called **Constitution Hill,** or Craig-lais, is traversed by agreeable walks; and there is a path stretching N. along the cliffs as far as Borth Sands, 5 m., overlooking the estuary of the Dovey, and commanding splendid views of the sea and its bold coast, which affords scenery of the highest picturesque order. On the N. side of the Craig-lais are the pretty river and vale of Clarach, the well-wooded demesne of *Cwm Cynfelin* (the seat of the late M. D. Williams, Esq.), and the ch. of *Llangorwen*, built from designs by *Butterfield*. *Peithyll*, the seat of E. L. Pryse, Esq., is on the rt. as you approach Aberystwyth.

1 m. further is a curious reef or causeway, running, it is said, for 7 m. out to sea, and believed to be the remains of a Roman road called *Sarn Cynfelin*. According to tradition, a large tract of land known as Cantref-y-Gwaelod, or the Lowland Hundred, formerly occupied the site of Cardigan Bay. This country, which is said to have possessed 16 fortified towns and population and riches without end, was devastated by a fearful irruption of the sea, which utterly destroyed it. This calamity was due, as tradition affirms, to the slackness of Seithenyn, the drunken commissioner, and took place circ. 520 A.D. Sarn Cynfelin, and other causeways resembling it, are considered to be the only vestiges of this once flourishing district.

5 m. ⚓ **Borth** (stat.) is a wretched-looking fishing-village by the side of the marsh and estuary of the Dovey, across which is a ferry to the town of Aberdovey in N. Wales. There is, however, a capital hotel, to which the late Mr. Thring boldly transported the Uppingham School, when its proper domicile had become untenable from its unsanitary condition. The sands and solitude attract those who prefer quiet to gay watering-places.

The visitor may vary his excursion by returning to Aberystwyth by the Machynlleth road, which the Aberdovey road joins near the romantic village and church of **Llanfihangel-geneu'r-glyn.** Upon the hill above the village and stat. is a very perfect circular earthwork called **Castell Gwalter,** or Walter's Castle. Of the structure, said to have been built here by Walter L'Espec, a Norm. adventurer, only the earthworks and outlines remain. Near it, at a place called **Bedd Taliesin,** is the cairn and kistvaen which is supposed to mark the last resting-place of the bard, who flourished about the 6th centy. It is upwards of 100 ft. in circumference. 2½ m. further, at a place called *Nant y Nôd*, are two early British circles. *Go-*

gerddan, the seat of Sir Pryse Pryse, Bart., is 3 m. from the town, on the same road, but not visible from it.

It is a very beautiful excursion to ♁**Devil's Bridge**, 12 m., passing 3 m. rt. **Nanteos**, the seat of Col. Powell. It is finely situated, overlooking from a height of 300 ft. the leafy glen of the Rheidol, while immediately below the house runs the narrower gorge of the Mynach, which here joins the Rheidol, filling the air with the roar of its waters. The Devil's Bridge is not more than 30 yds. from the house on the road to Rhayader, and might easily be passed without exciting attention, so completely is the narrow gorge which it spans choked up by trees and shrubs. It consists, properly speaking, of 2 bridges—a lower one, now a mere curve of rude masonry, built, it is said, in the 11th or 12th cent. by the monks of Strata Florida Abbey, whence perhaps comes its Welsh name of "Monk's Bridge;" and a more modern arch immediately over it, of about 30 ft. span, built in 1753, at a height of 120 ft. above the torrent, which is barely perceived among trees and rocks, as it works its way through the dark abyss below. There is a similar double bridge on the Pass of St. Gothard among the Alps; the modern and upper arch having been made, as is the case here also, to avoid the inconvenient descent to the lower and older one, which in both instances, from the boldness of its construction, has been attributed by the wondering peasantry to the architecture of the devil, the satanic Pontifix Maximus. The falls of the Mynach are in the grounds of the Hotel Company, which charges 1*s.* for each visitor, freeing him as often as he likes to go. The falls of the Rheidol may be visited by another path with more difficulty.

The best way to see the bridge is to cross it, and, taking a path to the rt., descend to the water's edge. Immediately under the bridge the gorge is reduced to a mere crack in the slate rock, over which, to all appearance, a man might stride. The torrent in descending towards it rushes and boils among the hard rocks, and, by the aid of the small stones which it whirls along with it, has scooped out the sides into grooves, giving to the bed of the stream the appearance of a succession of huge caldrons.

Most engravings of this bridge represent in one and the same view the waterfalls also; but in this the licence taken by the painter is as great as that allowed to poets, since from no point accessible at present can the bridge be seen at the same time as the falls, owing to a bend in the ravine. The falls may be seen by taking another pathway on the l. of the high road, about 30 yds. beyond the bridge, which leads by a rude staircase, cut in the splintery rock through the underwood to a promontory projecting between the Rheidol and Mynach, just above their junction; but the best path is in front of the hotel, commanding beautiful views of the falls individually. In times of flood, when the channel is full, the stream presents a magnificent spectacle, descending amidst rocks and rich foliage in a succession of leaps, respectively 18, 60, 20, and 110 ft. high. The 4th descent is to the fall of the *Rheidol*, opposite the hotel, in which the cataract is 70 ft. in height.

On the hill opposite the bridge is an ancient fortification called *Castell fan Gwrach*.

About $1\frac{3}{4}$ m. on the Rhayader road is the little ch. of **Yspytty Cynfyn** (from its name, formerly an hospitium), in the ch.-yd. of which are 3 large early British stones; and about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. on the l., in a deep and gloomy defile, is the **Parson's Bridge**,

which the tourist should not neglect to visit. A broad plank with a hand-rail is thrown from rock to rock and secured by chains, while the Rheidol foams underneath.

From the Parson's Bridge the ravine may be ascended on the opposite side, and the path followed to **Pont Erwyd.**

The Devil's Bridge is the most convenient point from which to make an excursion to Hafod, from whence the visitor should arrange to return to Aberystwyth by the new road along the Ystwyth to Llanafan. For rather more than 3 m. the old Rhayader road is followed, through the *Arch* built by the late Col. Johnes to commemorate the jubilee year of the reign of George III. From hence a rapid descent for a mile will bring the tourist to *Hafod*, a princely demesne, now the property of — Waddingham, Esq., where the beauties of nature and art have been mingled in a rarely happy manner. The property, originally a wild and barren glen, came in 1783 into the hands of Col. Johnes, by whom the bleak hills were planted with 3,000,000 of trees, besides many acres that were sown with acorns; and with what success, the densely-wooded hills and valleys all round attest. A large Gothic mansion in the bad taste of the time was erected by Mr. Baldwyn of Bath, in which Col. Johnes accumulated valuable treasures, including a library, famous for its collection of MSS., among which were illuminated MSS. of Froissart. In addition to these rarities, he printed at his private press translations of Froissart and Monstrelet's Chronicles, Joinville, Brocquière, and other rare and curious books. In 1807 the whole house, with nearly all that it contained, was burnt to the ground. Nothing daunted by this calamity, he set himself to repair the damage, had his house rebuilt by *Nash*, a great portion of whose work still exists, and made a fresh collection of books and MSS. The Ystwyth flows through the grounds amidst constantly varying scenes, and numerous tributary brooks rush down the hill-sides in cascades of every height, which a judicious thinning, advantageous alike to the timber and the landscape, has of late years opened to view. The principal object of attraction in the grounds is the **Piran Fall**, which, although of no great magnitude, is very romantic, the visitor being made to approach it through a tunnel in the rock; there are also several other very pretty falls in the grounds. The **Church**, called in Welsh *Eglwys Newydd*, is charmingly placed on the hill-side, not far from the entrance lodge. It contains one of *Chantrey's* finest sculptures, a most exquisite monument to the memory of Miss Johnes, in white marble, representing the parents standing at the death-bed of the daughter.

There is a good painted window in the S.W. transept, which was brought to this country from Holland.

On a commanding wooded knoll, not far from the ch., is an *obelisk* erected by Mr. Johnes to the memory of a Duke of Bedford.

[The visitor will do well to leave Hafod by the southern entrance, near which the Ystwyth is crossed at the picturesque little hamlet of *Pont-rhyd-y-groes*. By this hamlet and *Crosswood*, or, as the Welsh would call it, *Trawscoed*, the mansion and park of the Earl of Lisburne, he can, if he choose, return to Aberystwyth. At Crosswood the Vaughan family have been settled for more than six centuries. A skeleton bridge across the river connects it with *Birchgrove*, usually a residence of one of the family. *Llidiarde* (G. W. Parry, Esq.), *Castle Hill* (J. Loxdale, Esq.), *Abermaide* (L. P. Pugh, Esq.), are valley residences along this route to

Aberystwyth ; and over the hills to the rt. is *Nanteos* ("the Nightingale's Dell"), the seat of Col. Powell.]

On the opposite ascent are the famous **Lisburne** lead-mines, employing a large number of people. Two of the most important veins of ore in Cardiganshire, the Fronfraith and the Log-y-las, are worked here. The veins, from 4 to 6 ft. in thickness, run E. and W., sending out thinner veins from the main lodes, the traces of which are constantly to be found in the beds of the brooks and ravines on the sides of the hill.

From the Lisburne mines the tourist (who does not wish to proceed to Strata Florida) can return to Aberystwyth through Llanafan. A private road, open to visitors, has been formed by the mine-owners on the southern bank of the river, which joins the old Aberystwyth road at Pont Llanafan.

Many fine bits of river-scenery occur, particularly at *Craig Colommenod*, or the Doves' Rock, a very high perpendicular rock, appearing to stand out in the very course of the stream. At Pont Llanafan the river is crossed by a road, which leads on the l. to Ystrad Meurig and Tregaron. Some romantic scenery and a waterfall are to be found in a dingle, which accompanies this road a little to the W.

The Church of Llanafan contains an ancient silver Communion dish, presented by the Earls of Lisburne. In the neighbouring ch.-yd. of Gwnnws is a monumental stone to Prince Caradoc, who, stung with shame at his defeat by inferior forces, leaped headlong into the pool below the fall, still known as *Pwll Caradoc*. From Llanafan, a ride of 10 m. will bring the traveller to Aberystwyth.

ROUTE 23.

CAERMARTHEN TO CARDIGAN, BY PENCADER.

For rly. from Caermarthen to Pencader Junct., see Rte. 22.

From hence the Cardigan branch turns to the l., although at present it is only completed as far as

18 m. ♁ **Llandyssil** Stat. The village is charmingly situated on the Teifi, and a pretty **Church** has been built by *Wyatt*, consisting of nave, chancel, and side aisles. The N. aisle is separated from the nave by arches springing from columns of polished granite. The S. aisle has a squint connecting it with the chancel. The E. window represents the Crucifixion. The tower is ancient and massive, of the 13th cent. date, like Newport. Nicholson mentions that an inscribed stone existed here, marked VELVOR HLIM BRCHE. From Llandyssil an omnibus runs to Newcastle Emlyn and Cardigan, passing at 2 m. some lovely Teifi scenery, and a ch. on a site of an encampment to the rt., through, 4 m., the village of *Llangeler*. On l., 5½ m. is *Llysnewydd* (W. P. Lewes, Esq.), in the immediate neighbourhood of the Cenarth and Henllan Falls ; the Henllan Bridge, which divides the counties, is a perfect gem for the painter ; in both directions there are charming river views, reminding one of the Wye towards Builth ; and on rt., 6 m., is *Dolhaidd* (Mrs. Elliott).

A little further on is *Llandyfriog* on the N. bank of the Teifi.

9 m. In the parish of Cenarth is the little town of ♁ **Newcastle**

Emlyn, one portion of which, *Atpar*, is situated in Cardiganshire and the remainder in Caermarthenshire. The Teifi meanders in a most capricious manner round the Castle Hill, which it almost surrounds as though by a broad natural moat.

Newcastle is supposed to have had a Roman origin, but took its name from the fortress (of which but little remains) erected by Sir Rhys ap Thomas. Although some little distance from the town, the views over the vale will amply repay the visitor.

The route from Newcastle Emlyn to Cardigan is along the rt. bank of the Teifi, one of the loveliest in the principality.

12 m. The Teifi is crossed at the picturesque bridge of **Cenarth,** famous for its salmon leap, at which 100 fish have been taken in a single morning. The Cenarth Bridge is a modification of the Edwards' type, a single span connecting the rocks of either side. The river above the bridge falls in a bold sheet over a ledge of rocks, and, together with the primitive little village and water-mill, forms a scene of rare beauty.

13 m. l. **Stradmore** (W. Bucke, Esq.), and rt. 1½ m. **Blaenpant,** the seat of W. O. Brigstocke, Esq. The high-road runs through some avenue-like rows of trees, with the Teifi running to the l. a little below the level of the road.

16 m. **Llechrhyd,** a pleasant little village and a good station for anglers. A large weir formerly existed here which precluded the salmon from ascending the river, and was therefore destroyed in 1844 by a large body of Rebecca rioters. Here the Teifi is crossed to the lovely grounds of **Castle Malgwyn** (Mrs. Gower), from whence a road leads to Cilgerran Castle.

18 m. on rt. is **Llangoedmore,** the seat of John Vaughan, Esq.; and 2 m. on l. **Coedmore** (Thos. Lloyd, Esq., M.P.), in a most enchanting situation, almost opposite Cilgerran Castle.

19 m. ✝ **Cardigan** or Aberteifi, as it is called in Welsh (Rte. 25), does not possess very much to interest a stranger, though it is a convenient resting-place from which to visit the surrounding country. In the immediate locality were formerly kistvaens, the relics of a stone circle, and a huge stone, called Llech y Gawres, and supposed to have supported a cromlech. Although the county town, possessing nearly 5000 Inhab., it is rather behind-hand with the rest of the world; and from its inconvenient position as regards the rest of the county, much of the public business has been transferred to Aberaeron. But little remains of the **Castle,** which is surrounded by buildings, and itself converted into a modern dwelling; but the keep, a circular tower, still retains its underground passages and dungeons, which now serve the purposes of cellars. There are also two bastions and a connecting curtain, which is of later date, and probably Norman. There was a castle here in 1091, and Gilbert Marshall is said to have restored or strengthened it in the middle of the 13th centy. It underwent many assaults, particularly in the 12th century, at the hands of Hen. I. and the Welsh alternately, and changed owners at least a dozen times before Gilbert Marshall rebuilt it. Finally it was taken by the Parliamentary army under Gen. Laugharne.

The **Church,** a spacious Perp. building, has been restored, and contains a good canopied stoup.

The **Priory** for Black Monks at Cardigan lay to the E. of the ch. towards the river.

The scenery from Cardigan to the mouth of the Teifi is very pretty,

particularly at the village of **St. Dogmael's,** 1 m., where the ruins, though scanty, still exist of the once famous Abbey of St. Dogmael's, which was only second in size and importance to Strata Florida. The stranger will do well to cross the river at Cardigan, and pursue the pathway to the ferry along the rt. bank, and after visiting St. Dogmael's, return by the opposite bank.

The remains consist of the W. and N. walls, the N. transept, and parts of buildings attached to the E. side. This ancient ch., originally cruciform, consisting of a nave and transepts, and an extensive choir, was finished in the time of Henry I., by Robert, son of Martin de Tours, who was seised of the lordship of Kemmaes in the reign of William II., and was also the founder of Newport Castle. In the N. wall are recesses, perhaps designed for sepulchral monuments, though this design does not seem to have been carried out. The N. transept has the same recesses on each side of the altar, and seems to have been used as a Lady Chapel. A staircase from the S. side and the domestic buildings leads within the wall to the remains of a pulpit, which had a window at its back, as at Beaulieu, Chester, and elsewhere. In the adjoining grounds are a coffin-lid and slab decorated with crosses, and an inscribed stone, known as the stone of Sagranus, marked with Ogham characters. A portion of the site of the abbey is now occupied with a neat E. E. ch. in very good taste; and the whole churchyard and grounds, which make one of the prettiest pictures imaginable, are a standing memorial of the late Rev. H. Vincent, to whose antiquarian care the remains are indebted for their preservation. There is some fine rock and cave scenery at the mouth of the Teifi, though the river above the bridge far exceeds it in beauty.

Cilgerran Castle may be visited by road or by water—the latter affording the greatest variety of scenery, and showing the ruins off to the best advantage. The road on the l. bank of the Teifi is about 3½ m. The ruins of Cilgerran in themselves are considerable and interesting to the antiquary; but its principal beauty lies in its matchless situation, which is superior to anything in Wales. The landscape has all the accessories of rock, wood, and water. The river flows in a winding reach between lofty banks, on the one side soft and wooded, and on the other precipitous and rocky; while the whole pass is commanded by the frowning towers of the castle, which stand boldly out, as though part of the cliff on which they are built. The chief features of the ruins are 2 very massive round towers with curtains, and a gatehouse. Cilgerran was most probably one of the series of fortresses erected somewhat earlier than the time of Edward I., to overawe the natives of Cardiganshire, as though technically an Edwardian castle, it does not exhibit the usual symmetry of plan. It had to be adapted by its architect to the peninsular character of the site, fortified naturally to the N.E. and N.W. The masonry is of immense thickness, and not unlike the worst parts of Caerphilly in roughness. Full particulars of this fine ruin are given in the Report of the Cardigan Meeting of the Cambr. Archæologists in 1859, when it was carefully explained in detail by Mr. G. T. Clark.

The **Church,** was restored in good taste in 1855. In the churchyard is an inscribed stone with Ogham characters. The visitor will be struck with the appearance on the river, or before the doors of the fishermen, of the *coracle,* which is used on the Teifi to a great extent. In shape it is a kind of oval canoe, formed of basket-work covered with

sailcloth, about 4 ft. long and 3 ft. wide. Its extreme lightness enables the owner to carry it on his back, after having finished his fishing expedition.

Coracles are also used on the Usk, Wye, and Dee.

ROUTE 24.

FROM CAERMARTHEN TO PEMBROKE, BY WHITLAND AND TENBY.

For route between Caermarthen and Whitland Junct., see Rte. 2.

From hence the Pembroke line turns to the S., through the rich vale of Llanddewi to

5 m. ⚷ **Narberth** Stat., a small town placed on the slope of a hill, and on the bank of a little stream which joins the E. Cleddau. It was burnt by the Danes in 994. Population of the borough, which is a contributory to the Pembrokeshire group, 1266 at the last census.

Not much remains of the **Castle,** which was built by Sir Andrew Perrott on the introduction of the Normans into Pembrokeshire, and afterwards given by Henry VIII. to Sir Rhys ap Thomas. It was much injured during the Civil Wars, but was inhabited down to 1657, when a Captain Richard Castle lived there, and it formed a portion of the vast estates of the Barlows of Slebech, of which the Baron de Rutzen is the present owner.

Some good fossils can be obtained in a quarry at **Robeston Wathen,** 1½ m. W. of Narberth, as also many species of ferns in the neighbourhood. The quarry is about 300 yards N.E. of the ch. down a rural lane. **Lampeter Ch.** (restored) is worth a visit on account of its curious monuments. There are also 2 camps above the ch.

A little to the N.W. are the ruins of **Llawhaden Castle,** on an eminence overlooking the Cleddau. The principal remains are a noble gateway, with a bold round arch flanked by 2 towers of great strength, with open buttresses. There are other octagonal towers and some trefoil lancet-headed windows. Towards the N.W. the walls are fallen into a ruinous heap, but to judge by what remains, the area enclosed within the moat must have been considerable. It was, in fact, the castellated episcopal residence of the Bp. of St. David's, which gave rise to the saying, "that when he was at St. David's he was a bishop—at Llawhaden a baron—and at Lamphey a country gentleman." This residence was spoilt by Bishop Barlow of St. David's, who, bent on enriching himself "per fas et nefas," stripped all the lead away. The church contains a monument of Bishop Hoton, 1389. A curious monumental stone is built into the E. wall of the ch. facing the river.

6 m. **Templeton,** a village formerly belonging to the Knights of Jerusalem at Slebech. Upon the hill between Narberth and Templeton to the l. of the road, near the Union, are some remains of earthworks, supposed to have been flung up by the early Flemish settlers. 1 m. on l. is **Grove,** formerly one of the chief seats of early (Druidic ?) worship, and at **Molleston** are the remains of a cromlech. 3 m. l. **Eglwys Lwyd,** conspicuous from its lofty Pembrokeshire tower, stands on a bed of limestone, which has been quarried up to

the churchyard wall. The peasantry believe that the Ark rested on a place called *Blaengwaithnoch*, in the adjoining parish.

9 m. **Kilgetty** Stat. On l. is *Begelly*, the seat of Mrs. Penn. Near Kilgetty to the l. is a disparked deer-park, belonging to Picton Castle. The appearance of pits in the neighbourhood of Begelly Common indicate that the traveller has come upon the coal or culm beds of the Pembrokeshire basin, which is exceedingly contorted and disturbed.

12 m. ⚓ **Saundersfoot** Stat., a small port, where a considerable amount of coal is shipped, and iron ore, principally from the Bonville's Court and Kilgetty mines. Near this is the ruin of Bonville Castle, preserving the name of an early Norm. settler, and consisting of an original tower with a later addition. Both are now used as a workshop. Not far from Saundersfoot, inland, is the ch. of St. Issell's, with its narrow defensive tower and its curious font. The date is Transitional, from Norm. to E. E. The shippings of coal and culm from Saundersfoot exhibit a steadily rising trade; and that which strikes the tourist is, that amidst such busy working and commercial life, the scenery is still diversified and beautiful; the coast is rocky and bold; while the cliffs are frequently wooded to their very edge. On the high ground above Saundersfoot is **Hên Castle** (C. R. Vickerman, Esq.).

[The pedestrian may proceed from hence to Kilgetty, Amroth, and **Marros**, the church-tower of which is a well-known landmark at sea. The exquisitely situated modern mansion of **Amroth Castle** (H. Fussell, Esq.), occupies the site of an ancient fortress over the residence of some of the princes of the South; and it was from hence that the sons of Gruffydd ap Rhŷs marched, when they surprised Tenby. From this place, too, did the licentious Owain issue upon that wild raid which terminated in his carrying off the beautiful Nesta, Gerald de Windsor's wife, to his eyrie among the hills. The views from Amroth are among the finest in Wales.

"The coast about Amroth has undergone three distinct changes of level within recent geological periods, for by digging at low-water below the remains of the forests (sunken by the subsidence of land recorded in the Triads, and ascribed to the reign of Vortigern), then exposed, a sea-beach is laid bare. This shows that at one period the beach, now submerged, must have been level with the sea; at a second period it must have been elevated, to permit the growth of the forest; while a third period finds it again submerged."—*Mason*.

The road continues to **Greenbridge**, where the river vanishes through a cavern and reappears at **Pendine**, a small bathing-place to the rt. A guide and lights may be procured at the Greenbridge end, and a visit will repay the tourist. The Pendine sands are firm and dry for 5 miles, and it is a 4 miles' ride thence to Saundersfoot. From hence along the coast to Llaugharne (Rte. 2) is a pretty walk.]

15 m. ⚓ **Tenby** now appears, rising like a gem from the sea, and affording a beautiful contrast to the bleak country behind.

Tenby is beautifully situated on the summit and sides of a peninsula, bounded by steep rocks which form a lofty basement to the town, overlooking Caermarthen Bay, into which a rocky promontory stretches out, crowned by the ruins of the Castle. Of late years it has extremely improved, and may now rank as one of the best and most fashionable watering-places in Wales, much

resorted to on account of its salubrity and the excellent bathing upon its fine, smooth, and extensive N. and S. sands. The season lasts from June to the end of Oct., though each year increases the number of winter residents, who are attracted by the mildness of the climate. Lodgings are plentiful, and afford good accommodation, the best being situated in the Esplanade, and the Norton, Croft, Lexden, and Belmont Terraces. There is also a fair fish-market for soles, salmon, turbot, brill, scwin, John Dorey, mullet, cod, crabs, lobsters, and oysters, though the best fish is sent inland by rail.

As a commercial town Tenby has declined, though in the reign of Henry VIII. it was a flourishing place, "very wealthy by merchandise." It contains a considerable part of its ancient walls, embattled and pierced with loopholes, together with flanking towers and one gate, defended by a semicircular bastion on arches, which was probably erected when the walls were repaired (1588), on the alarm of the approach of the Spanish Armada. Although the Welsh name Dynbych y Pyscoed—"the precipice of fishes"—implies that it was long ago a fishing-village, its origin is ascribed to the colony of Flemish clothiers, driven by inundations from their own coasts, who settled here in the reign of Henry I., and introduced a permanent spirit of commercial enterprise.

The **Castle,** which stands on the peninsula, served as an asylum for Henry of Richmond, while a youth under the protection of Jasper Earl of Pembroke, until he could escape thence to Brittany, which he did, by the help of Thomas White, a wealthy Tenby merchant. The only portions which remain are the keep or watch-tower, some parts of the walls, and the main entrance-gateway. The keep commands a view of a line of similar watch-towers, at the Burrows, above Ivy Tower, on Windmill Hill, and the Ridgeway, overlooking the land approach to Tenby. Walks have been formed on the **Castle Hill,** and from this elevated terrace, which since 1864 has been surmounted with a statue of the late Prince Consort in Sicilian marble, on a massive basement of Pembrokeshire marble, a charming view is presented of Caermarthenshire; its rocky headlands and sweeping bay; of the Isle of Caldy; and, further out to sea, that of Lundy; while, directly opposite, the Worm's Head stands out in bold relief, with the embouchure of the Burry river and the smoke of Llanelly to the l.; on the S. the scene is closed by Giltar Point.

At the extremity of the Castle Promontory rises **St. Catherine's** Rock, isolated by the sea at high water, but approachable across the sands at low tide. The beauty of the rock, on which were the ruins of a small chapel, has been sadly marred by the erection of a battery upon its summit to hold 100 men in time of war, and to be protected by 9 guns. Roman coins of the Lower Empire were discovered in digging the foundations. The inclined foliated strata have been perforated through and through by the action of the waves, forming a marine cavern. There are many others, arising from this cause, all along the coast, some of them extremely curious and picturesque.

The **Church**, conspicuous from far and near from its elevated spire, and one of the largest in Wales, was rebuilt, 1256, by Warren de Monchensey, Earl of Pembroke, and is chiefly in the E. E. and Perp. style. The principal objects of interest in it are the singular form of the W. doorway; the chancel, which leads to an altar by a handsome flight of 10 steps, is deco-

rated with a wooden-roof, cradle-shaped, and furnished with curiously carved bosses. It is rich in sepulchral monuments, the most remarkable being a marble effigy of a skeleton in a canopied recess of about the 15th centy., and one to the memory of the Whites, rich merchants when Tenby was a flourishing port, and connected even to the present century with the county and borough magistracy. One of these was mayor when Henry of Richmond embarked, and received from him, when king, a lease of the crown lands in the vicinity as a reward for past services. This monument is of marble and bears two reclining figures, habited in the costume of their calling, and some bas-reliefs. There is also a kneeling figure in memory of Wm. Risan, 1633, and a tombstone to Walter Vaughan, of Dunraven Castle, of wrecking notoriety. Another curious monument commemorates Thomas ap Rhys of Scotsborough, and his wife, date 1610.

Slight remains of a Carmelite house exist opposite the ch. The town was originally fortified, as may be seen by the extant walls on S.W. and N.W., the mural towers, and the gateway. A strong high wall ran S.W. from the N. gate to a tower at the N.W. angle. The whole may be fairly traced by turning to the l., as you go to the rly. stat., at the first turn after the Gate-house-Hotel. Of late years several good houses have been built on the Esplanade south of the town, the majority of which are let furnished to weekly tenants. Tenby is a cheap and pleasant place of residence, particularly to those who take pleasure in scenery, geology, or natural history. The lover of marine fauna will find ample occupation by the sea-shore, for Tenby has been made famous by Mr. Gosse for the number and beauty of its actiniæ and zoophytes; while the botanist will find a goodly list of ferns in the lanes of Penally or Saundersfoot. The cliffs, which consist of carboniferous limestone, and form the southern border of the Pembrokeshire coal-field, have been much contorted in various places. There is a good local museum on the Castle Hill.

The **Ridgeway,** a high ground for several miles rising E. and W. between Tenby and Pembroke, consists of an uprise of old red sandstone flanked on each side by limestone. In the Marsh, which is crossed to reach the Ridgeway, grow the reed mace, the bur-reed, the great water plantain, and other aquatic plants.

From observations already noticed of the late Mr. Mason, the coast would seem to have undergone considerable changes of level, particularly in the neighbourhood of Amroth Castle; and it is evident that the sea, within recent times, occupied the valley leading to the village of St. Florence.

Tenby, which is one of the contributory boroughs of Pembrokeshire, and contains 3810 inhabitants, abounds with charming walks and excursions, both far and near. For walks the visitor may go 1. to *Saundersfoot*, by the cliffs; 2. to *Waterwinch*, a charming little dell running from the seaside about 1 m. N. The return should be made by the N. sands, if the tide is out; 3. to *Lydstep* and *Giltar Point*, along the S. sands; 4. *Gumfreston;* 5. (boating) to Caldy Island.

The finest excursion is that to Pembroke by the coast. The passenger by rly. to Pembroke may get out at the various stations of *Penally*, *Manorbeer*, and *Lamphey;* but the only way of seeing the coast properly is to walk or drive, returning by the direct road.

Passing the Marsh Bridge over

the Ritec is, 1 m. on rt., **Hoyle's Mouth,** a curious cave, which runs into the limestone for 159 ft. The opening or mouth extends 24 ft. into the Hill, but Hoyle's Mouth is, in fact, a series of caves connected by narrow passages. It has been suggested that it may have been Shakespeare's ideal of the cave explored by Imogen in 'Cymbeline.' A good account of the contents of Hoyle's Mouth and of Little Hoyle will be found in Lowe's 'Little England beyond Wales,' pp. 5, 6, 22, 30.

2 m. the quiet little village of **Penally** Stat., with its church embowered in trees. It is a quasi-cross church, with a western tower, of Pembrokeshire type, possessing a nave and transept with a good stone-vaulted roof, and an altar-tomb to William de Haunton, 13th centy. There is a cross in the churchyard 6½ ft. high, and ornamented on each side with interlaced ribbon patterns. Penally, according to the legend, is one of the three places honoured by being the receptacle of St. Teilo's bones, the other two being Llandeilo and Llandaff. The view to the l. of **Caldy Island** is fine. This island is about 1 m. long by ½ m. broad, and connected with it at low water is the Isle of St. Margaret; on the former are a lighthouse and the residence of J. T. Hawksley, Esq., lord of the manor; and in the S. wall of the chapel is an inscribed stone to the memory of Catuoconus, possibly Cadogan, who gave lands to St. Teilo. The S., or uninhabited part of Caldy Island, is the summer haunt of puffins and other sea-birds, which are said never to overstep the boundary line of civilization, a certain stone wall. Boats can be obtained at Tenby for the excursion to Caldy, distant about 2 m.

3 m. l. the village of **Lydstep,** near which are beautiful *caves* on the coast, only to be visited at certain times of the tide, duly mentioned in the 'Tenby Observer.' The whole of the coast scenery from **Proud Giltar,** with its sheer face of rock rising perpendicularly from the ocean, to Lydstey, with its hill and secluded bay, is very grand.

6 m. **Manorbeer Castle** (Stat.), = **Maenor Pyr,** the Manor of the Lords, of which the ruins are extensive and almost unaltered save by the destroying effects of time, and present a good example of a feudal fortress upon a commanding site, frowning down upon the coast below. A lofty embattled wall, pierced with loopholes and retaining part of its ramparts within, surrounds the whole. The entrance gateway, originally approached by a barbican and drawbridge, has lost one of its flanking towers. The moat remains, and there are grooves for two portcullises within the circular gate. The windows of the domestic apartments, as usual, face inwards. In the lodging part of the castle stands the great hall with a plain vaulted roof. Taken as a whole, "it seems to have been constructed by the family to whom it belonged, more with a view to convenience and safety, than with any vain object of an enormous display of feudal power."—*E. A. F.* On the E. of the court ran minor buildings; and a curious feature in the region of the kitchen are the circular chimney-shafts. On the opposite side of the old fishpond the original pigeon-house is still standing. Some years since, Manorbeer Castle was let to Mr. Cobb, a solicitor from Brecon, who has rendered habitable a portion of the building. Manorbeer was in 1146 the birthplace of Girald de Barri, better known as *Giraldus Cambrensis,* the Archdeacon of Brecon, who flourished in the latter part of the 12th and beginning of the 13th centuries, and was author of an Itinerary or De-

scription of Wales, compiled while attending Baldwin, Archbishop of Canterbury, on his mission to preach the Crusades amongst the Welsh.

He has left a flaming description of his native place, its fish-ponds, its vineyards, its hazel-groves, and other attractions, rendering it in his estimation "the pleasantest spot in Wales," but contrasting greatly at present with the whitewashed ruins and village.

The **Church** is one of the most peculiar in the county. It is cruciform, and the tower is placed on the N. side, in the angle of the chancel and transept. "The principal notion conveyed is one of the wildest irregularity and incoherency among the several parts—the tower, the attached N. transept, the quaint N. aisle, are all thrown together apparently without any further connection." The original nave was shorter than the present by the width of the western arches, but of the present width, and lighted by long narrow Norm. windows. In the interior the arches are very curious, rising from square piers without capital or impost, and have seemingly been dug out of the thickness of the walls. The vaults of the nave, S. aisle, and transept are worth notice, as is also a tomb of one of the De Barris, a cross-legged effigy of a knight in mixed mail and plate-armour. The arms on the shield prove the name, and the date is considered by Mr. Haines to be that of Edward II.

On the cliffs to the l. of the bottom of the cove below the castle are a cromlech, the capstone of which had once 3 supporters, one of which has slipped, and now inclines to the S., and two or three remarkable fissures in the old red sandstone about 100 ft. in depth.

7 m. from Manorbeer, and 3 m. S. of Pembroke, whence it is most easily approached, is **Stackpole Court,** the seat of the Earl of Cawdor; a large mansion built of dark-blue limestone, on a height overlooking a narrow valley, which is occupied by the waters of a creek running up from Broadhaven, which is here crossed by a bridge. The house contains a few good pictures, including two by *Albert Dürer*, a portrait of the first Lord Cawdor, by *Sir Joshua Reynolds*, and good three-quarter lengths of his father, and of the father's two brothers and two sisters. In the entrance hall are some muskets which were taken by the Pembrokeshire militia under his Lordship's command from the French who landed at Fishguard. Here, too, is the *Hirlas Horn*, presented by the Earl of Richmond to Davydd ap Jevan, by whom he was entertained at Llwyn Davyd, in Cardiganshire, on his way to Bosworth Field. On the side next the lake is a noble terrace. The grounds and gardens are highly picturesque, and a peculiar feature is the luxuriant growth of the extensive woods which cover the sides of the valleys down to the water's edge. Near Stackpole are some huge upright stones, supposed by some antiquaries to have been set up by Harold, but there is no inscription upon them.

In the church of **Cheriton,** a little N. of Stackpole, which, like all the others on Lord Cawdor's estate, has been restored at his expense, is a recumbent figure of a cross-legged knight in armour lying beneath a sculptured canopy. It represents Sir Elidur de Stackpole, the reputed founder of the church, who assumed the cross at the appeal of Archbp. Baldwin. The original stone altar-slab of old red sandstone has an illegible inscription of (?) the 7th centy. The Stackpole estate is remarkable for its neat cottages.

On the coast near Stackpole is a fine *cave*. The cliffs in the neighbourhood and all the way to Linney

Head are remarkable for the extraordinarily contorted strata of the limestone ; but the grandest scenery is exhibited near **St. Gowan's Head,** which rises to a height of 160 ft. above the sea, and is traversed by a narrow and deep fissure, hemmed in by a precipice of limestone on either side, accessible by a flight of rude steps, which it is said, cannot be counted twice without missing. The **Chapel** of St. Gowan is built across the chasm, consisting of a rude and dilapidated cell. That holy anchorite (who is supposed by some to be the knight Sir Gawaine, of Arthur's Round Table) spent his latter days in this remote cell, conferring by his prayers and sanctity of life a blessing on various objects around. Within the hermit's sanctum is "the wishing place," a fissure in the rock just large enough to hold one person. Whoever, seated in this rock, repeats his wish therein with full faith, turning round each time he utters it, will, before the year is out, have the desire accomplished. According to the tradition, St. Gowan was concealed in this recess, which closed over him to secure him from his enemies, and again opened when they had passed. A little below the chapel is St. Gowan's *well,* now almost dry, whither patients even of the upper classes sometimes repair to drink of the not very clear stream, supposed to be imbued with miraculous virtues. But the healing influence of the saint's prayers attaches itself most to a deposit of red clay occupying an angle of the cliff, derived from the decomposition of the rock. "The lame and blind pilgrims are still conveyed by their friends down the rude steps chiselled by the holy man, and, after being anointed with a poultice formed of the moist clay, are left there for several hours to bask under the summer's sun."—*Murchison.* The author of 'Records of the Rocks' considers the chapel to have been posterior in date to the days of Giraldus Cambrensis, who notices the falcons, but not the chapel, of this cleft or fissure.

A little further to the W. is a still narrower and very deep fissure, rising up from the sea, but whose sides nearly meet above, called the **Huntsman's Leap,** from a story of a huntsman who leapt over it with his horse at full speed, and afterwards went home and died of fright.

Further to the W. is **Bosheston Mere,** a very small aperture, which, like a winding funnel, gradually widens below, until it spreads out into an extensive vault opening to the sea. During the prevalence of gales from the S.W., the sea, driven by wind and tide into the cave, is ejected through the upper hole in jets 40 or 50 ft. above the ground, like the spouts of the Geysers. The arches and fissures into which the rock is hollowed by the effects of the surge, as well as the contortions of the limestone strata, are well seen in **Bullslaughter Bay,** where there are some splendid caverns. Between this bay and the Stack Rocks is a magnificent black caldron (placed in the midst of a Danish Camp, or cliff castle, ascribed to Danish rovers, and stretching across the quasi-isthmus), formed of precipitous rock, with a noble natural arch opening out, through which the sea boils into the caldron. The **Stacks,** about $3\frac{3}{4}$ m. from St. Gowan's, are two lofty rocks detached from the coast from time immemorial, the favourite haunt of sea-fowl, which, especially in the months of June and July, resort thither in myriads to breed. They chiefly consist of a species of auk (*Alca torda,* Linn.), here called eligug, and are in such numbers that it is scarcely possible to distinguish the rock, so closely do the young birds sit upon it. The clouds of winged creatures hovering around this spot, and the discordant cries with which they fill the air, add

much to the singular effect of the scene. "During the summer the cliffs swarm with cormorants, razorbills, guillemots, oyster-catchers, gulls, and puffins. The Cornish chough sometimes builds in the cliffs between the Stacks and St. Gowan's, and here, too, linger kestrels and sparrow-hawks, though the Peregrine falcon, which Henry II. used to procure from hence, are quite extinct." —*Records of the Rocks.* Beyond the Stacks, the sea has worn the rocks into two remarkably lofty arches, leaning like flying buttresses against the cliffs, whose height must here exceed 150 ft. The strangely contorted strata near *Pennyholt*, and towards the Head of Man, near which is a perfect Danish camp, with a tumulus upon its outer rampart, are well worthy of inspection. There are some traces of buildings, said to be Roman, upon *Sheep Island* and at *Angle*.

From hence to Pembroke the road leaves the coast, passing on l. the Chapel of **Flimston**; and 2 m. **Warren Church** is placed on an eminence. ½ m. E. is **St. Twinnell's**, where there is an entrenchment on the same commanding ridge of hill; and 1 m. W. the site of one at **Castle Martin**, which gives its name to the hundred, celebrated for its breed of black cattle. Passing on the rt. **Orielton**, once the fine seat of the Owens, but now of M. A. Saurin, Esq., and Henllan and Castleton, the tourist arrives at ♁ **Pembroke**, 1 m. from Stack Rocks.

The old town of ♁ **Pembroke**, consisting mainly of one broad and ascending street, occupies a ridge projecting into one of the numerous pills or creeks branching out from the harbour of Milford Haven, "which about a mile beyond the town creketh in so that it almost peninsulateth the town, that standeth on a very main rokki ground."—*Leland.* It is an unassuming town, though formerly, as the capital of the Palatinate, the chief in the county, containing, with Pater, above 15,450 Inhab.; but it is recommended to travellers by the objects of interest in its vicinity, and by its extensive ruined **Castle**, placed on the extremity of the ridge on which the town is built, and standing forth on a promontory washed on either side by the arms of a salt-water inlet, over both of which bridges are thrown.

It is not seen to advantage at low water, as the receding tide leaves bare unsightly banks. Its outer defences, and especially its main gateway, show in their breaches and shattered tower the effects of Cromwell's attack, in the memorable siege which he partly conducted in person. This castle, which is said to have been built by Arnulf de Montgomery (circ. 1094), was very large and strong, and doubly warded; the outer ward is now a green meadow, hemmed in by walls and towers partly overgrown. The stone roof of one of them is shattered, and its walls fissured. Here Leland was shown the chamber where Henry VII. was born, 1456, marked by a chimney bearing his arms; but the room now usually pointed out as the place of his birth is in the inner court, on the l. and to the N. of the round tower. The Castle belonged to his uncle, Jasper, Earl of Pembroke, on whose attainder, in 1461, it was granted with the Earldom by Edward IV. to William Lord Herbert, of the Pembroke lineage. Jasper made several attempts to recover his stronghold, but failing in this, he withdrew with his nephew to Brittany in 1471, where they remained in exile for fourteen years. Within the inner court is the chapel, having pointed arches. A passage, now stopped up, led from this point of the castle to a very large cave, called the **Wogan** (Welsh, Ogof), in the limestone which forms the base-

ment. The communication was by a wooden staircase, now removed, but the cave may be entered from the outside. It probably served as a sallyport. Some have supposed that the garrison drew their supply of water from a spring or reservoir within it, and that in the siege before alluded to, the reduction of the place was principally effected by the enemy having found the cave, broken down the staircase, and thus cut off the supply of water. The principal building in the inner court is the keep, a circular tower 75 ft. high and 163 ft. in circumference, of 5 stages, gradually diminishing upwards, having walls 17 ft. thick below and 14 ft. above, the whole surmounted by a cone-shaped roof of masonry and still perfect. It is accessible by a winding stair, rendered difficult from the stones being broken, the only assistance being by a rope that dangles from the top, so that a false step would be serious. There is a narrow path outside the walls above the waterside, by which the Wogan cave can be reached. A legend states that it is connected by a subterranean passage with Hoyle's Mouth at Tenby, but unfortunately the interposition of the old red sandstone renders it impossible. The siege referred to occurred in 1648, when the revolted Parliamentarian officers, Gen. Laugharne, with Powell and Poyer, mayor of the town and governor of the castle, having been defeated at the battle of St. Fagan's, retired hither, with the remnant of the force which had so ineffectually proclaimed the royal cause. They entered the castle early in May, 1648, and Cromwell in person, following close after them, appeared before the walls on May 21st. After a regular siege of six weeks, the fortress was at length gained for the Parliament, on the 11th of July, 1648. The three commanders, having been tried by a court-martial, were condemned to be shot, but the sentence was executed upon one only, the choice being made by lots drawn by a young child. Two of the lots were marked "Life given by God," and the third, left blank, fell to Poyer, who was shot in Covent Garden, 1649.

The antiquary will find interest in visiting the remains of the **Priory Church of Monkton,** near the Castle, an ancient Norman edifice, possessing a vaulted nave of great length, and 2 blocked incipient geometrical windows. The choir is roofless, and is merely "a Dec. parochial chancel on a large scale." "The ch. consists solely of the nave, intended for the parishioners, and the choir for the monks, with certain smaller adjuncts." Under the chancel arch, which is walled up, is a rich canopied tomb of the early 16th centy., worthy of examination. There are 2 churches in Pembroke, one of which, *St. Mary's*, is remarkable for its massive steeple.

The excursion to Stack Rocks, 7 m., and St. Gowan's Chapel, 13 m., can be undertaken from here.

2 m. N.W. of the town is **Pembroke Dock** or Pater, the terminus of the Tenby and Pembroke Rly.

It consists of a modern settlement (of above 10,000 Inhab.), principally artisans' houses, collected round the royal **Dockyard**, which was established in 1814 by the side of the Haven, having deep water close by at most times of the tide.

It occupies an area of 80 acres, surrounded by a high wall flanked by 2 martello towers. There are 12 building-slips for vessels of all sizes, including first-rates and war-steamers, covered with sheds protected by roofs of iron. There is also a dry-dock for the reception and repair of first-rates. Pembroke is essentially a building-yard, employing in ordinary about 1000 workmen, and the stores here are limited to enormous

stacks of timber of various kinds—oak, deal, and larch. The Nasmyth steam-hammer and saw-mill are particularly worth notice. As it is not a fitting-dock, the vessels when ready are towed round to Devonport or Portsmouth to be finished. The dock is defended by a fort to the W., which mounts 24 guns, and by the 2 martello towers, which each mount 3. Large barracks have also been erected on the hill above, and there is a hut-encampment at Hobbs Point.

The yard is shown on application, except at the dinner-time between 12 and 2.

A steam ferry plies several times a day to connect the Dock with the South Wales Rly., at **New Milford** (Rte. 2).

[On the return to Tenby the tourist should visit the ruins of **Lamphey** (Stat.) (Llan Ffydd), the Ch. of St. Faith, in the 14th and 15th centuries the palace of the Bp. of St. David's, but now enclosed within the fruit garden of **Lamphey Court**, the modern mansion of Charles Matthias, Esq. They consist of part of a chapel with a fine E. window of Perp. style, and the great hall adjoining, a long vaulted building, having a staircase outside, leading to what was probably the dormitory. Its walls are surmounted by a parapet raised upon an open arcade, like the castle of Swansea, and the palace of St. David's, and, like these, supposed to have been built by Bp. Gower, 1335, although some antiquaries consider that the arcade was the only portion of his work. A similar arcade is seen around an isolated tower now standing in the midst of the kitchen garden, shrouded with ivy; its use, except for ornament, is dubious. The whole edifice was surrounded by defensive walls; it stands in the bottom of a valley, and is thus sheltered from the sea wind which sweeps this country, shrinking the growth of trees and giving a bare character to the landscape. The episcopal estate of Lamphey was alienated to the crown in the reign of Henry VIII., who bestowed it on Devereux, Viscount Hereford. His descendant, the Earl of Essex, the unfortunate favourite of Queen Elizabeth, spent many years of his youth at Lamphey Palace, as did also his kinsman, Walter Devereux, whose body was removed for burial to Staffordshire. *Lamphey Palace* Chapel is of Perp. work (circ. 1509–23). It has lately been restored without detriment to any of its characteristic features.

1 m. rt. **Hodgeston Church**, remarkable for a very slender steeple, a Dec. chancel of great beauty, containing some richly canopied sedilia, and a double piscina. It has been described as a miniature of Monkton Priory.

The road to Tenby runs for the greater part of the way along the elevated Ridgeway, commanding extensive views of the country on each side. At the 4th m. a détour can be made to Carew Castle, 2 m. l.

Carew, celebrated for its extensive ruined **Castle** (called locally "Carey Castle"), which lies to the N. of the road, placed on a slight eminence above one of the creeks of Milford Haven, which washes its base on two sides. In the village stands a very ancient and beautiful *cross*, of a single shaft, 14 ft. high, covered with Runic carvings and traces of an inscription no longer legible. A barbican or outwork, much shattered and shrouded with ivy, leads to the principal gate of the castle. The princes of South Wales are believed to have had a fortress here (Caerau = Carey), given by one of them, Rhys ap Tewdwr, with the dower and hand of his daughter Nesta, to the Norman baron Gerald de Windsor, Castellan of Pembroke in the reign of Henry I. It is pro-

bable that some part of Gerald's castle exists on either side of the great gateway, that being decidedly the oldest part remaining. Within it stood the chapel. On the opposite side of the court, facing the gateway, are the state apartments, originally approached by a broad flight of steps leading to the great banqueting hall. Here Henry of Richmond was received on his way to Bosworth by Sir Rhys ap Thomas, who then owned the castle and large estates in Caermarthenshire. King Richard III., suspecting, not without cause, that Sir Rhys had been intriguing with Buckingham, sent commissioners to him to administer the oath of allegiance, and to demand his son as a hostage. The Welshman readily took the oath, but, instead of resigning his boy, contrived to satisfy the king with a letter, containing, among other assurances of loyalty, a voluntary protestation that, "should any one ill-affected to the state dare to land in this part of Wales, where I have command, he must make his entrance over my body." When the Earl of Richmond landed on Sir Rhys's domain, he is said to have quieted his conscience by laying down on his back, or placing himself under a bridge, while Richmond passed over. In the war between Charles I. and the Parliament, Carew was garrisoned for the king in 1644, and held out till after the surrender of Tenby.

The inner face of the W. side of the castle court is said to have been built by Sir Rhys himself in a rich form of late Perp.; it proclaims, by the style of its architecture, that it was erected during the reign of the Tudors. To the N. we have a façade of the Elizabethan age, with large windows and some circular oriels interspersed with them, running up the whole height. This is ascribed to Sir John Perrot. Part of the fabric wears the aspect of a mediæval fortress. It must have been a structure of great magnificence, though now reduced to a mere shell, and its large, square, lantern-like windows are much dilapidated. The N. side was evidently built without any view to defence, but it is connected with the round flanking towers of an earlier period, which occupy the angles of the edifice. The great hall is remarkable for the lofty porch which forms the entrance, and is 104 ft. long. Over the W. gateway are the arms of England, of the Dukes of Lancaster, and the Carew family.

Carew **Church** is decorated with a good Perp. tower, square-headed belfry windows, diagonal buttresses, a polygonal turret, and a large W. window. Not far from Carew, to the N., is **Upton Castle,** which possesses a gateway with a double arch, somewhat resembling Llawhaden, but on a smaller scale. **Upton Chapel** contains one or two curious monuments. Some little distance from Upton, but on the opposite bank, are the ruins of **Benton Castle**, which have a singularly picturesque appearance when viewed from the water. Between Carew and Tenby on rt. is

St. Florence (Stat.). The church is an excellent specimen of the local Pembrokeshire type.

1½ m. from Tenby is

Gumfreston Church (restored), a good specimen of a Pembrokeshire church, probably of the date 1300, with a baptistery and a beautifully decorated piscina, within which stands the sancte bell, 8 inches high, of good bronze metal, though now cracked. There is a stoup for holy water at the rt.-hand corner of the porch, and the tower is of 5 stories, and 60 ft. high to the top of the battlements. It is a capital specimen of the Pembrokeshire type of towers.

In the ch.-yard are some excellent chalybeate springs.

ROUTE 25.

FROM HAVERFORDWEST TO ABERYSTWYTH, BY ST. DAVID'S, FISHGUARD, CARDIGAN, AND ABERAERON.

The road from ♁ **Haverfordwest** (Rte. 2) to ♁ **St. David's** (16 m.), though generally passing through a bleak portion of Pembrokeshire, is pleasantly variegated with hill and dale, and ever and anon commands magnificent panoramas extending for many miles round. Twice a week in winter and three times in summer an omnibus drags its slow course over the hilly road, being the only connecting link between the ancient city of St. David's and modern civilisation. But Haverfordwest has good posting-houses and good livery stables, and the traveller who would visit St. David's enjoyably should charter a vehicle and not be tied to time. The nomenclature of the various villages and hamlets will remind the traveller that he is in the country colonised by the Flemings. "This tract was inhabited by the Flemings out of the Low Countries, who, by the permission of King Henrie the First, were planted here. These are distinctly knowen still from the Welsh; and so neere joined they are in society of the same language with Englishmen, who come nighest of any nation to the Low Dutch tongue, that this their little country is termed by the Britains Little England beyond Wales."

[8 m. from Haverfordwest, on the coast of St. Bride's Bay, is **Broadhaven**, a pleasant little bathing-place, possessing a fine extent of firm sand and splendid coast views, in which the barren and solitary islands of **Skokholm** and **Skomer** form prominent objects. Through the village runs a coast-road N. and S., by which the pedestrian can proceed from St. David's to Milford Haven, thus avoiding Haverfordwest altogether.

5 m. on rt., on the summit of a high ridge of ground, are the scanty ruins of **Keeston Castle**. A very extensive view is gained from hence over Haverfordwest and the Vale of Cleddau. The landscape on the rt. of the traveller consists of long ridges of elevated moor, which look somewhat dreary on a close inspection. The high grounds in front are the **Plumstone and Trefgarn Hills,** both remarkable for the number of remains of tumuli and camps as well as for the isolated masses of rock, appearing to the distant eye like some ruined town. Behind them the chain of the *Preseley Hills* rises to the height of 1754 ft.

8 m. on rt. **Roch Castle,** a conspicuous object in the scenery for miles around, from its commanding position, overlooking the bay of St. Bride's. This castle, which is of no great extent, although larger than a first view would warrant, consists of a picturesque tower built on the edge of a rocky ridge running E. and W. It was built in the 13th centy. by the Norman, Adam de Rupe (who also founded the priory of Pill, near Milford), no doubt with a view to securing the subjection of South Wales; and marked with Benton Castle, near Williamston, and opposite to Llawrenny, the limits of the jurisdiction of the Flemish province of Rhos. It experienced some rough treatment

in the civil wars, when it was garrisoned for the King under Capt. Francis Edwards. The view which here breaks upon the traveller, especially on a fine evening at sunset, is most impressive. The eye wanders over St. Bride's Bay, and to the rt. the whole country as far as St. David's: the principal feature in the scene being the jagged outline of St. David's Head in the far distance, that appears like a purple bank of clouds rising out of the plain.

9½ m. The road descends to the beach (from which it is separated by a bank of shingle washed up by the sea, and something resembling the Chesil Beach, near Weymouth), and crosses the **Newgal** brook, the boundary between the hundreds of Rhos and Dewisland. Tradition asserts that a large tract of country lies buried beneath the waves and the sands of Newgal, and is borne out by the fact that traces of a submarine forest have been detected. Giraldus Cambrensis mentions the appearance of trunks of trees "standing in the midst of the sea with very black earth, and several old blocks like ebony; so that it did not appear like the sea-shore, but rather resembled a grove." (*See* 'Itin. Cambr.,' i. 13.)

Ascending the steep hill on the opposite side, the tourist passes on l., 11 m., a tumulus, the only remains of **Poyntz Castle,** or Castrum Pontii, once one of the principal granges belonging to St. David's.

13 m. The beautiful little village of **Solva**, near the mouth of the river Solva or Solfach, is placed in such a narrow creek that its situation is not seen or expected until the road fairly tumbles into it. To the rt. of the road, and divided from it by the bed of the river, is Whitchurch Hill, on the side of which **Lower Solva** is prettily built, with quaint little walled gardens. The windings of the river between the steep banks are highly romantic, but detrimental to the navigation, which is rendered dangerous by a pyramidal rock standing at the very centre of its mouth. Many visitors come during the summer for the sake of the bracing air.

From Solva a walk of 3 m., past the residence of J. D. Harries, Esq., to the l., will bring the traveller to, 16 m., the city of ♆ **St. David's,** placed in a corner of Great Britain apparently remarkable for nothing but its desolate appearance and extreme isolation. "Hic etenim angulus est supra mare Hibernicum remotissimus; terra saxosa, sterilis, et infæcunda; nec sylvis vestita nec fluminibus distincta nec pratis ornata; ventis solum et procellis semper exposita." This description of old Giraldus will apply with almost equal effect in the present day; nevertheless, the very desolation of the country adds to the feeling of interest with which the visitor examines a city so replete with noble associations. St. David's itself is a mere village in the ferny valley of the Alan, about 1 mile from the sea, consisting of one principal street and two cross ones, at the junction of which stands an ancient cross, restored by Bishop Thirlwall in 1873; but its principal attractions are the grand old **Cathedral** and the ruins of the college and bishop's palace hard by. The Dinas (or City of St. David's) was probably never more than a straggling village along the hill above the cathedral to the S. and E. None of these buildings, save the top of the great tower, are visible from any portion of the village, until the visitor is close upon them; for, like the sister church of Llandaff, the cathedral is placed in a deep hollow. There is, however, between the two a great difference.

"The effect of Llandaff is (or was till its restoration) a mixture of that

of a ruined abbey and that of an ordinary parish church. St. David's, standing erect amidst desolation, alike in its fabric and its establishment, decayed, but not dead; neglected, but never entirely forsaken,—still remaining in a corner of the world, with its services uninterrupted in the coldest times, its ecclesiastical establishment entirely untouched,—is, more than any other spot, a link between the present and the past; nowhere has the present so firm and true a hold on the past."—*Jones and Freeman's 'St. David's.'*

The best points of view from which the whole group of the cathedral buildings is commanded, are the gate in the road called the "Popples," opening on the ch.-yd. steps W. of the tower-gate, and the hill-side, N.E. of the cathedral, between it and the village.

The usual entrance into the close is that leading from the town on the S.E. through a gateway, above which is an octagon tower, formerly used as a consistory court and record office, though, perhaps, as suggested by 'Jones and Freeman,' originally designed for a bell-tower; but the aspect of the cathedral from this gate is very far inferior to the approach from the N.E., which includes in the view the ruins of the chapel and the chapterhouse.

In shape the church may be briefly described as cruciform, with the addition of 3 chapels of inferior height to the E. end of the choir, while, on the E. face of the N. transept is a lofty building of 3 stages containing the chapter-house. The dimensions are within, from E. to W., 290 ft., while those of the transepts are 120 ft. Externally, the principal features are the W. front (restored at the end of the last centy., and again in the last decade as a memorial of Bishop Thirlwall), and the nave and aisles, of which the roof has been lowered; they contain 2 doorways, that of the N. being Norm., and the southern one ornamented with sculpture representing the Root of Jesse, within an outer porch. The tower, which gives the idea of being rather top-heavy, consists of three stages, the lowest being Norm., and scarcely rising above the level of the original roof: the middle stage is Dec., while the uppermost is Perp. It is 124 ft. in height. The S. transept contains 4 Perp. windows in 2 stages. "The interposition of such a closed chapel as that of Bishop Vaughan between the presbytery and the ambulatory connecting the aisles is probably unique, and is at any rate without parallel in this country."—*King's* 'Cathedrals.' The walls of the choir are embattled, and rise with a beautiful though melancholy effect from the roofless and ivy-covered ruins of the Lady Chapel and chantries on each side.

On entering the cathedral a view is gained, in its way probably unequalled in any ch. in Great Britain, owing to the extreme richness of decoration and numberless minutiæ of the nave (consisting of 6 bays), which is transitional between Romanesque and Gothic, and is unlike that of any other ch. in this country. "From the extreme W. end the eye ranges through the nave to the closed choir-screen of Bp. Gower. The E. tower arch breaks the line of roof, and beyond is seen the coloured ceiling of the presbytery, with the E. end of the ch. in the far distance, banded with stone of differing tints, and rich with mosaic and stained glass." The visitor should observe the great span of the pier arches, which are alternately round and octagonal, and in particular the almost classical grace of the foliage of the two shafts attached to the first pair of piers from the E. Those between the N. aisle excite feelings of some apprehension as to their stability, from the extreme bulging—the N. wall also has a con-

siderable outward leaning. Observe, too, the peculiarity of the triforium. The arches of the windows, below which the triforium range is formed, are enriched with chevrons, while from between them rise the exquisite vaulting shafts of the ceiling. The triforium arches themselves are plain and pointed, without shafts.

The roof, in itself only a flat ceiling of timber laid upon the walls, is probably unique in its singularity and extreme richness, produced by the use of numbers of vast pendants. "Both the arches themselves, and the straight lines which join the principal panels, drip with minute foliations like lacework, in a style of almost Arabian gorgeousness." Though really only in seeming, the ceiling has the appearance of being supported by a system of segmental arches, effecting a threefold longitudinal division of roof, and crossed by a similar range springing from the walls. It was probably constructed towards the end of the 15th cent. The interior of the tower consists of 4 noble arches, of which the western is round, and very richly adorned, while the others are pointed. A decorated arcade rises, each arch forming a small triforium.

The style of the interior of the transepts, nave, choir, and presbytery, is Transitional Romanesque, with pointed arches and foliage of the Somersetshire type.

The presbytery consists of 4 bays, and contains massive piers supporting pointed arches with mouldings, and at the E. end an extremely rich triplet of Norm. and E. E. intermixed with a profusion of rich Romanesque moulding; below it is a rich string, and above it a large Perp. window. To the E. of the choir, and a little on the N. side of it, is Bp. Vaughan's or Trinity Chapel, which, together with one to the E. of that again, have their roofs whole, while all the other chapels are open to the day. The former is a fine specimen of late Perp., and contains an exquisite fan-tracery roof. The Lady Chapel, the work of Bishop Martin, although unfortunately roofless, is of Transition from E. E. to Dec., though containing some Perp. windows. Attached to the N. transept is a peculiar-looking building, of which the lowest stage, formerly St. Thomas's chapel, is now used as a chapter-house.

The principal objects of interest in the cathedral are the beautiful stone rood-screen, the work of Bp. Gower, the central division of which forms the entrance to the choir, while those on either side contain tombs, that of Gower himself being on the extreme rt.; the grotesque carvings of the stalls and unique miserere seats in the choir (note the cowled fox offering the wafer to a goose with a human head and equivocal cap); the tomb of the Earl of Richmond, father of Hen. VII.; and the shrine of St. David, within the third arch from the E. on N. side of the presbytery, in former days an attraction to legions of devoted pilgrims, including several kings and princes. Giraldus Cambrensis, the interesting old topographer of S. Wales, is also said to be buried here. "The glass in the upper tier of E. lights above the altar, and the mosaics which fill up the closed windows under them, are the gifts of the Rev. W. Lucy, rector of Hampton Lucy in Warwickshire, as memorials of his ancestor, who was Bp. of St. David's (1660–77). The glass is by *Hardman*, the mosaics are by *Salviati*, from cartoons by *Mr. Powell* of Hardman's establishment at Birmingham. The subjects are—In the central window the Crucifixion, with figures of St. John and the Virgin, and the Magdalen kneeling under the cross. In the side windows are Ecclesia and Synagoga, the Christian and Mosaic Church, in full-length figures. In

a predella beneath the central mosaic is a representation of the Brazen Serpent, with figures of Moses and Aaron. Below the others are St. David distributing alms to the poor, and St. David addressing the Synod of Llanddewi Brefi. Each of the larger subjects has a rich architectural canopy, and a broad border of a very beautiful design surrounds the whole." The tints and gold of the mosaics harmonise well with the colour of the surrounding stone-work. Some of the encaustic tiles of the presbytery give the three "luces," the old coat of the bishop, whose descendant has done so much towards beautifying the cathedral. Mr. Lucy died in 1874.

The history of the see commences about the end of the 6th centy., when St. David (the Welsh call him Dewi), who had succeeded the holy Dubricius as Archbishop at Caerleon, is said to have removed the see to the wilds of Menevia; though by some it is supposed that St. Patrick established a monastery in still earlier times. Amongst the pupils attracted by St. David's learning and piety were St. Aidan, St. Teilo, and Paternus, the patron saint of Llanbadarn. It was about this time that the Pelagian heresy was checked by the preaching of St. David at the great synod held at Llanddewi Brefi (Rte. 22). "If it be impossible to tread the 'barren rocks of Iona' without emotion, the old land of St. David, whence came the traditions and teaching which St. Columkilla carried northwards, may be regarded at least with an equal interest."—*King.* The present cathedral was built by Bp. Peter de Leia in 1176–98, after it had "beene often destroyed in former times by Danes and other pyrats," although in successive years it became much dilapidated, at one time by the fall of the tower, in 1220, which crushed the choir and transepts, and at another by an earthquake, in 1248, to which the very insecure-looking bulging of the N. wall of the nave may be attributed. At the hands of different prelates it underwent different degrees of enlargement and decoration, according to the devotion or architectural capabilities of each, though, of all the long line of bishops, Gower, who flourished in the 14th centy., did more to adorn it than any other. The Lady Chapel was the work of Bishop Martyn (1290–1328). In contrast with these stands Bp. Barlow, in 1536, who, not content with alienating much of the Church property, is said to have stripped the lead off the Bishop's Palace as well as from the castle at Llawhaden (Rte. 24), that he might provide portions for his five daughters, who married five bishops.

Careful restorations were carried on some years ago in the interior by *Mr. Butterfield;* but the great work of repair was undertaken in 1863, at which time the state of the tower had excited most serious apprehensions. The old and new sides had begun to separate, and from the very top to the bottom a great crack prevailed; so that not only was the tower in danger of falling, but portions of the nave and the pillars of the arches were thrown out of the perpendicular. The work was undertaken by *Sir G. G. Scott.* The total cost has exceeded 39,000*l.*, of which 10,000*l.* was provided by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, 4900*l.* by the chapter, and the 25,000*l.* by contributions from individuals.

The difficulties of the tower restoration were great, but were ingeniously overcome by *Mr. Clear*, the clerk of the works, by fixing bracings inside and out, with massive ties of iron, and bolting the walls together, after which he screwed the sides of the tower 3 in. closer. He then constructed strong foundations of timber, on which the tower completely rested, while the foundations beneath were strengthened and the

two western piers entirely removed and rebuilt.

In one of the graves disturbed during the operations a skeleton was found, with the head of a pastoral staff, a chalice of thin silver, and a gold ring with an amethyst set in it. It is believed to have been the tomb of Bishop Carew, d. 1280, who was buried, according to Leland, "prope altare crucifixi." Another grave contained a pastoral staff-head, a ring, some coins, and a paten. This was supposed to be the grave of Bishop Beck, 1293. Bishop Gower's remains were also found, enclosed in a leaden coffin and containing an ornamental pastoral staff-head of brass.

Opposite the E. end of the Lady Chapel is the spring which tradition says St. David bade break forth for the service of his disciples, and which was afterwards known as **St. Mary's Well**. Other legends attached to it may be read in King's 'Welsh Cathedrals.' It has survived the draining of the hill behind it.

Adjoining, and on the N. side of the cathedral, are the picturesque ruins of **St. Mary's College,** or Chantry, founded in 1377 by Bp. Houghton. They are even in a more dilapidated state than the chapels before mentioned, little being left but a rather elegant tower and chapel, with some good E. Perp. windows, which was built over a crypt. The E. wall of a cloister attached to the College of St. Mary connects that building with the transept. Divided from the rest of the cathedral buildings by the river Alan are the remains of the **Bishop's Palace,** splendid in its very desolation, and offering examples of richly decorated domestic architecture, almost unique. This palace, which is of quadrangular form, is one of the masterpieces of Bp. Gower, The visitor will at once be struck by the beautiful arcade and parapet that runs round the whole building. The only other examples of this delicate ornament are Swansea Castle (Rte. 2) and Lamphey Court (Rte. 24). The masonry, too, is very peculiar. The parapet consists of a series of open arches resting on octagonal shafts, surmounted, though now only visible in a few places, by a corbel-table, and a battlement. On the S. side is the great hall, entered by a richly decorated porch, over which are two niches containing statues, supposed to represent Edw. II. and Queen Philippa. This window is popularly, though incorrectly called "King John's Hall."

At the E. end is a rose window (the four-leaved flower so frequent in Gower's work ornamenting the outer moulding) of singular beauty and design, the tracery of which forms a complete wheel with spokes radiating from a central quatrefoiled circle.

At the western extremity of the hall stands the chapel, marked by an elegant bell-turret, having a broach spire. All the buildings of the palace are raised on a series of vaults, as a precaution against the damps of the Alan valley. The palace in its ruins is a noble specimen of a domestic abode of hospitality and religion, where a princely prelate housed and entertained pilgrims of all ranks, and was prepared to welcome royalty itself. The whole of the palace, cathedral, and other buildings stand within the close, which was defended by a wall a mile in circumference.

The lover of rock scenery will be amply gratified by exploring the numberless little creeks and bays with which the coast abounds.

At **Caerfai,** one of these bays, a little to the S., the purple sandstone quarries of which furnished the stone for building the cathedral, and represent the oldest sedimentary rock known to geologists, are the ruins of the **Nun's Chapel**, dedicated

to St. Nonita, or Non, the mother of St. David, on the spot where, according to tradition, the saint was born. A second chapel, to St. Justinian (Capel Stinan), existed on the coast at *Porthstinian*, about 2 m. to the W., where travellers bound to the opposite **Isle of Ramsey** were wont to perform their devotions. This island is separated from the mainland by a strait 1 m. in breadth, is about 2 m. long by 1 m. broad, and is terminated at each end by rugged and precipitous hills which contribute much to the savage effect of the scenery. Nevertheless it is by no means barren, but possesses a productive farm and good land. Up to the last centy. there were remains of two chapels, one dedicated to St. Justinian, and the other to St. Dyfanog; the first to the S. and the other to the N. of the island. Multitudes of sea-birds breed here, insomuch that different localities amongst the rocks are named *the Organ* and *the Choir*, from the noise of the birds frequenting the cliffs.

At the S. end of the island are two very small ones, named respectively *Ynys Beri*, or the Kite's Island, and *Ynys y Cantor*, or the Precentor's Island.

To the W. lie a group of insulated and dangerous rocks, known as the **Bishop and his Clerks,** "who preache deadly doctrine to their winter audience, such poor seafaring men as are forcyd thether by tempest; onlie in one thing they are to be commended, they keepe residence better than the rest of the canons of that see are wont to do."—*Fenton.*

The "deadly doctrine" was fearfully illustrated in Feb. 1860, by the wreck of the Nimrod steamer, when all perished.

A little N. of Porthstinian, and about 2 m. N.W. of St. David's, is **Whitesand Bay,** the eastern part of which is a firm sandy beach of half a mile long, reaching up to the base of Carn Llidi, while at the N. extremity is the inlet of **Port-melgan,** sheltered by St. David's Head. Here was the traditional site of Caermorfa where Gildas preached. Underneath the burrows which border this bay, traces of walls have occasionally been found in places where the sand has blown away. A legend is current amongst the natives that they belong to the primitive ch. founded here prior to the erection of the cathedral; but almost all antiquaries are agreed as to this being the locality of the ancient Roman station *Menapia.* To corroborate this opinion, this spot has been proved to have been the terminus of two great lines of road, one being the *Via Julia*, extending from *Aqua Solis* (Bath); and the other being the Via Flandrica, or "Fford Fleming," which is supposed to have connected Loventium with Menapia. It is, however, considered by other antiquaries to have been an early British road made use of by the Romans. Apart from these memorials of a departed people, the great number of antiquities in this immediate neighbourhood all prove the importance in which this country was formerly held.

There is a remarkable earthwork called **Penllan** just ¼ m. from the cathedral, overlooking the river Alan, popularly ascribed to Boia, a Celtic chieftain, who used it for the purpose of persecuting St. David and his monastery. Another, called **Parc-y-Castell,** lies ¼ m. apart from Penllan, and Leland calls it "Cairboias Castel."

Rising out from the plain in an abrupt precipice of 100 ft. is **St. David's Head,** a bluff peninsula, cut off by an ancient stone fortification called **Clawdd y Milwyr,** or the fence of the soldiers, a rampart of stones from 75 to 100 ft. broad. It is carried across from cliff to cliff, a distance from N. to S. of 200 ft. A

similar rampart occurs at *Dinas*, a few miles from Fishguard. The whole of the range of cliffs looking northward is exceedingly fine, and presents an appearance of much greater height than really belongs to it, in consequence of the monotony of the country inland. Close to the head, and in fact forming part of the sea-range, is **Carn Llidi** (592 ft.), from the summit of which an extensive and beautiful view is gained of the whole promontory of Dewisland (or David's Land), Strumble Head, with the Caernarvonshire hills to the N.; and in clear weather the Wexford and Wicklow mountains are visible.

At the foot of Carn Llidi is a *rocking-stone*, now dismounted; there is also a cromlech on the Head, towards the N.E., with a capstone 11 ft. 9 in. in length, and 9 ft. 9 in. in breadth, besides several "meinihirion" in the neighbourhood. Those, however, who wish to study minutely the antiquities of St. David's will do well to obtain Jones and Freeman's splendid work, to which the writer of this notice is much indebted.

The road to Fishguard passes through a desolate and bleak country, though relieved at intervals by peeps of St. George's Channel on the l. hand and the Preseley mountains on the rt.; the principal interest of the route, however, lies in the numerous Early British remains so profusely scattered about.

17½ m. on rt. **Dowrog Pool**, a small tarn about 1 m. in circumference, affording good wild-fowl shooting.

19 m. on l. is **Penberry,** a noble headland, which towards the sea descends in a sheer precipice called Trwyn-ddualt. Near its N. extremity a cromlech existed within the last fifty-years. From hence the road follows for a time the course of the Fford Fleming or Via Flandrica, 21 m. on l., to Llanrian, passing by **Trevaccoon** (G. Harries, Esq.), 24 m. The populous village about 1½ m. to l. is **Trevine,** the site of a grange or palace belonging to the Bishops of St. David's, of which a vault still remains. Near it on the farm of Longhouse is one of the most perfect cromlechs in S. Wales, consisting of 6 upright stones, on 3 of which, which are 5½ ft. high, rests a very thick capstone, 16 ft. in length, thus forming a chamber open only on the N. side. It has been conjectured that this cromlech was originally surrounded by a circle. On the coast is

Abercastell, a little harbour frequented by coasters. At 25½ m. there are two other cromlechs dismounted in a field l. of the road.

26 m. l. **Mathry** ch. and village.

30½ m. the road joins the direct turnpike from Haverfordwest to Fishguard. [At 8 m. is **Ford**, where the Roman road or Via Flandrica crosses the turnpike; and 3 m. to l. is the station of *Ad Vicesimum*, about 1 m. to the N.E. of *Ambleston* Ch. The scenery at **St. Dogmael's** is very picturesque.

10 m. are the **Treffgarn** rocks, from whence a very extensive view is gained. 14½ m. Haverfordwest.]

32 m. ♁ **Fishguard.** It is a pretty little town of 1851 Inhab., divided into two distinct portions, the former of which, or the upper town, occupies the cliffs, while the lower town constitutes the seaport and harbour. Altogether it is one of the most picturesque places on the whole coast, and offers many attractions to the visitor in quest of scenery. The harbour is formed at the mouth of the little river Gwayn, which issues from a narrow and beautifully wooded glen

directly into Fishguard Bay, in which a large number of vessels can ride safely at anchor in 6 fathoms of water, no matter how bad the weather is outside. Indeed, this bay is almost the only refuge on the coast between Milford Haven and the Bay of Cardigan, and from this cause, as well as its proximity to the Irish coast, which in clear weather is distinctly visible, Fishguard was originally selected to be the terminus of the South Wales Railway before it was finally fixed at Milford. Beyond its picturesque situation the town presents nothing remarkable. The opposite headland, 1 m. from the town, is dotted with the white cottages of **Goodwick,** which from its fine sands and lovely situation offers many charms to enjoy sea-bathing in a quiet retired spot. Goodwick is becoming more and more the resort of visitors who appreciate the seacoast without the inducements of fashion, and parades and bands, and has several good houses and villas. The line of coast at the back of Goodwick, with its many indentations and headlands, forms **Strumble Head,** the southern boundary of Cardigan Bay. The inland district, known as **Pencaer,** is wild and mountainous, though containing a great many early British stones and cromlechs. About 3 m. from Goodwick, following the cliffs, is **Carreg-wastad Point,** in the parish of Llanwnda, a spot historically celebrated for the landing of the French in 1797. A body of men, 1400 in number, under the command of General Tate, were disembarked at this point and proceeded inland as far as Fishguard, committing ravages in their career. At this juncture, however, they were met by a body of yeomanry under Lord Cawdor, the Lord-Lieutenant of the county, and, being by some misapprehension deserted by the ships which had left the coast, were obliged to surrender unconditionally, and lodged in the gaols of Pembroke, Haverfordwest, and others in the district. A large number of Welshwomen, in their characteristic red petticoats, viewed the transaction from the neighbouring hills, thus giving the enemy the notion that they were surrounded by much larger forces than really were present. It may be mentioned that the parish of Llanwnda was the scene of the clerical labours of the historian and topographer, Giraldus Cambrensis.

[A very pleasant excursion of 11 m. may be made from Fishguard to the Preseley mountains, which run like a backbone through Pembrokeshire from E. to W., dividing the county into two portions. The route lies through or alongside of the valley of the Gwayn to **New Inn**, from whence a steep walk will bring the tourist to the summit of **Moel-Cwm-Cerwyn** (1700 ft.), the Bald Hollow of the Wash-tub, so called from the curious crater-like shape of the top of the mountain. The Preseley Hills, taken as a range about 7 m. long, form a connected hill-chain, with some outliers. The principal eminences are—on the E. Moel-Trigarn and Carn-menyn; on the W. Bwlch-gwynt and Foel Eryr; while Moel Cwm-Cerwyn is in the centre. Lying in the centre of the county, these bleak hills are crossed by roads running N. and S. from Haverfordwest and Narberth to Cardigan, as well as by the Via Flandrica, which was carried along the S. flank. The view from the summit of any of these hills in clear weather is grand, comprising the whole of Pembrokeshire and parts of Cardiganshire and Caermarthenshire, besides a vast expanse of sea, terminated on the W. by the coast of Ireland. The tourist who determines upon the excursion should be very particular as to the state of the weather, as fre-

quently, after all his exertions, the hills become enveloped in thick mist, rendering sight-seeing out of the question. Throughout the whole of the range the remains of cromlechs, meini-herion, camps and tumuli are profusely scattered, proving the former importance of this part of Pembrokeshire.

A very fine British urn was dug out of a tumulus by the late Mr. Fenton, but it was unfortunately broken by the carelessness of the workmen.]

The road to Newport is carried down a steep descent to the old town, crossing the Gwayn. On rt. is *Glynammel*, the seat of John Worthington, Esq., but still remembered as the abode of the eccentric and learned antiquary and historian of Pembrokeshire, John Fenton.

36 m. on l. is **Dinas Head,** a fine promontory forming a conspicuous landmark at sea. A broad intrenchment separates it from the mainland.

On rt. is the steep outlying range of the Preseley Hills, the most northerly point terminating in **Carn Englyr,** a peculiar volcanic-looking hill which rises 1500 ft., directly at the back of Newport.

[Another and prettier route from Fishguard to Newport runs along the valley of the Gwayn past Glynhamel and Llanllawer *Court* to the left, an old seat of the Gwynne family, with a modern ch. on the hill above (Rev. T. G. Mortimer). After crossing a bridge over the Gwayn, the tourist passes a mile further **Llanllewedog** ch., with a venerable yew in ch.-yd. : and still further on the rt. of the road, **Pont-Vaen** (Mr. Feeting), where is also a ch. Several tributaries descend the well-wooded slopes to the rt. of the valley, and assist in swelling the winding stream of the Gwayn. The hill above the latter part of this road is **Mynydd Cilcyffeth,** under the shadow of the Preseley Mountains ; and when towards Newport the route goes over higher and more barren grounds, it skirts the l. side of the *Carn Englyr.*]

39 m. ⚓ **Newport,** a pleasantly situated little town, which in former times is said to have monopolised most of the trade of the county. Owing, however, to a great mortality occasioned by a plague, the market was removed to Fishguard, which henceforth flourished at the expense of its neighbour. It possesses a small harbour at the mouth of the river Nevern, but the navigation is impeded by a bar. Its only attraction is the **Castle,** founded by William, son of Martin of Tours (circ. 1094 A.D.), who rechristened the old town of Trefdraeth Novoburgus, or Newport. It was long held by the Martins, his descendants. It overlooks the town and bay, and was, until very recently, a picturesque ruin ; but has now, however, been incorporated with a modern dwelling-house by the lord of the manor, the late Sir T. D. Lloyd, Bart., lineal heir to the Barony of Cemmaes, through the Martins above mentioned. The principal feature in it is a very elegant tower of the 13th centy. rising from a square base into a circular form, and surmounted by an upper polygonal story of later date. On the N. side is a vaulted chamber, with a central E. Dec. pier, from which spring 8 ribs. The ch., which is said to be also of the 13th centy., and has a characteristic embattled tower, has been modernised in the vilest *churchwarden* form. In a field to the S.E. of the town, on the *Cwm Gloyne* estate (M. W. Ll. Owen, Esq.), is the **Newport cromlech.** Poised on two out of four upright stones, whilst the other pair cannot even be called secondary props, the capstone mea-

sures 10 ft. in length by nearly 9 ft., and is from 3 ft. to 3½ ft. thick. The chamber measures 5½ ft. by 4½ ft.

39 m. on l. *Llwyngwair*, the finely-wooded seat of J. B. Bowen, Esq., a little above which, to the N., is *Berry House.* Near Newport are also *Cwmgloyne*, and the ancient seat of the antiquary, George Owen, *Henllys.*

[The traveller who wishes to take Cilgerran Castle on his way to Cardigan should pursue the straight road through *Eglwys Wrw*, and by *Croft House*, the distance being about 9 m. This is the road from Haverfordwest to Cardigan.]

40½ m. **Nevern** church and village, with the steep wooded dingle and brawling river, form as picturesque a landscape as one could wish to see. In the churchyard is a very fine *cross* of the 9th centy., ornamented with network ; somewhat similar to the one at Carew (Rte. 24). The ch. contains a coffin-lid with an early Greek cross. On an eminence above are traces of **Llanhyvor Castle,** probably the fortress of Martin de Tours before he married the daughter of Rhys ap Gruffydd, and removed to Newport. The Vale of Nevern from Eglwys-wrw to the sea might be compared in all but extent with the Teifi side. The Nevern is fed by three tributaries, one flowing from the Preseley Hills.

On a by-road, about 1½ m. from Nevern (but more easily approached by the upper road from Newport to Cardigan, which leaves Nevern to the l.) is the cromlech of **Pentre-evan,** only equalled in Wales by that of St. Nicholas near Cardiff (Rte. 1). The by-road, which leads to within a field of it, is entered by taking the second turning to the right after the turn to Pentre-evan Farm, and the tourist may rejoin the road to Cardigan without retracing his steps, as this by-road, with a little circuit, opens out into the turnpike road. This cromlech's height is such that 6 persons on horseback can be conveniently sheltered. Pentre-evan cromlech has a gigantic capstone, 16½ ft. long by 9⅓ ft. broad, and 2½ ft. thick at the S. end, poised on a big stone to the N. end, and two laterally placed stones to the S., with a stone set on end, but not touching the capstone between them. The E. and W. are for the most part open, but two huge stones are a little detached at the S.E. corner, and three fallen stones lie towards the N. end, partly beneath the cromlech, and another at a little distance to the S.W. There are also remains of an old mansion of Hen. VII.'s time, inhabited by Sir James ap Owain.

On the farm of Tre-Scert, about 1½ m. from Nevern, is the large cromlech of **Llech-y-Drybedd.**

The road to Cilgerran crosses the Nevern at **Pont Baldwyn,** from whence the archbishop of that name, accompanied by Giraldus, preached the crusades.

42 m. on l. is the solitary little chapel of **Bayvil.** The road, which has been continually ascending from Nevern, presents some fine views over Newport, Dinas Head, and Fishguard, while on rt. the Preseley Hills are seen to great advantage.

43½ m. on l. are 5 singular tumuli called **Crugiau Kemmes.**

49½ m. Crossing the Teifi by a fine stone bridge, the visitor arrives at the county town of ♁ **Cardigan** (Rte. 23). The road from Cardigan to Aberaeron, 23 m., runs inland, and is uninteresting ; but some fine scenery is to be met with by following the coast.

56½ m. is **Aberporth,** one of the little primitive fishing and bathing

places in which Cardiganshire abounds. Between it and Penbryn is an inscribed sepulchral stone.

58 m. *Tyllwyd* (Capt. Pritchard).

59 m. on l. **Castle Nadolig,** a strong fortified camp, nearly semicircular, well situated for commanding the passes of the South.

Further on is **New Quay,** a small harbour and bathing village, containing a population of about 1800 persons, principally engaged in fishing and shipbuilding. On rt. is *Voyadd* House (T. H. Rice, Esq.).

69 m. rt. is the village of **Llanarth,** the churchyard of which contains an inscribed stone bearing a cross, with 4 circular holes at the junction of the arms. The story runs, that a disturbance was once caused in the church by the Evil One, and that the vicar was sent with bell, book, and candle to drive him out. He pursued the intruder so briskly up to the top of the tower, that the latter had nothing to do but to leap over the battlements, which he did, coming plump amongst the gravestones, and leaving traces of his arms and knees on the stone in question.

73 m. ⚓ **Aberaeron,** a small watering-place, which, however, owing to the improving care of the landowners in the neighbourhood, has gradually been rising in the estimation of sea-bathers. From a little retired village it has become a rather important market-town, at which a good deal of county business is transacted. The situation is beautiful, bounded on each side by steep cliffs, and the wide Bay of Cardigan before it. A ch. has been erected here, as the parish ch. is at *Llanddewi Aberarth*, about 1 m. distant. The *Aeron*, at whose mouth the town is situate, has its main watershed on the eastern slope of Mynyddbach, and after a course for some distance away from the sea, winds round near Llangeitho and Capel Bettws, and passes Abermeurig and Llanllyr on the way to Aberaeron. Aberaeron has thriven owing to its superiority to Cardigan as a county centre. On the shore is a circular camp known as **Castell Cadwgan,** and supposed to have been founded by Cadwgan ap Bleddyn in 1148.

The road from Aberaeron to Aberystwyth runs for several miles on the face of extremely steep cliffs, commanding magnificent sea-views, as well as the whole coast-line of Cardigan Bay and the ranges of Plinlimmon, Cader Idris, and the North Wallian Hills. Few roads present such a glorious panorama.

75 m. **Aberarth** village; 2 m. to the rt. is *Monachty* (Major Hughes, lord of the manor).

78 m. l. **Llansaintfread** *Ch.*, situated between the road and the sea. 79 m. rt. *Altllwyd* (Mrs. Hughes).

At **Llanrhystid,** placed at the mouth of the river Wyrrai, is a fine modern ch. The road is joined on rt. by a cross-road to Lampeter; passing *Mabus*, the seat of Colonel Begbie. The cliffs, which for the last 2 or 3 miles have sunk, again become lofty and precipitous, and frequently abound in caves and fissures.

85 m. From the top of a steep descent, dignified by the name of *Chancery*, a fine view is gained of the Ystwyth and its wooded banks as it winds at the bottom of the vale. At 86 m. it is crossed at the bridge of **Llanychaiarn,** a picturesque little village, with the ch. close to the l. bank of the river. On l. is **Bryn-Eithin** (H. S. Richards, Esq.), situated at the foot of the **Altwen Cliff,** a favourite walk from Aberystwyth. Passing the turnpike at Piccadilly, from whence two other roads diverge to the Devil's Bridge and Llanavan, the tourist arrives at 89 m. ⚓ **Aberystwyth** (Rte. 22).

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Rail to Hereford *viâ* Erwood (for Craig-y-pwll-ddu), Rhayader, Brecon, and Aberystwyth.

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Hotels: *Ivy Bush*, good; *Boar's Head*.

Rail.—By *S. Wales* to Swansea, London, and Milford. *Central Wales* system to Pembroke, Tenby, Llandeilo, Craven Arms, and the North; by *Manchester and Milford Railway* to Lampeter and Aberystwyth; by *Caermarthen* to Llandyssil.

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Inns: *Castle; Boar's Head;* both fair.

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Hotels: *Royal; Park; Angel;* all good.
Omnibuses run every 10 minutes between the town and the Docks (a distance of 1½ m.), as well as to those of Penarth, Taff Vale Rly., and S. Wales Rly.; all communicate direct with the docks.
Steamers ply daily to Bristol and Portishead, according to tides; also to Burnham, on the opposite coast, in connection with the Somerset and Dorset Rly., and to Cork, in alternation with Newport. One or twice a week there are steampackets to Gloucester and Swansea, as well as frequent excursions to Weston.
Rail to Newport, 12 m.; Bridgend, 20 m.; Cowbridge, 12 m.; Merthyr, 24 m.; Llandaff, 2 m.; Pontypridd, 13 m.; Rhymney, 24 m.; Caerphilly, 9 m.; London, 170 m.
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Distances: Tintern, 5 m.; Wyndcliff, 3 m.; Raglan, 12½ m.; Caerwent, 5½ m.; Caldecot Castle, 6½ m.
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Rail to Milford, Caermarthen, and London.
Omnibus to St.David's, 16 m., on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays; Fishguard, 14 m., daily; Newport, do. Independently of the Castle Hotel there is a good posting establishment (Henry Davies) at the Old Bridge, Haverfordwest.
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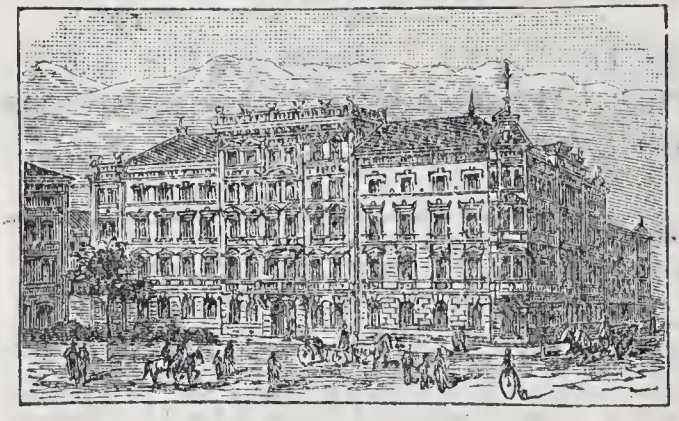

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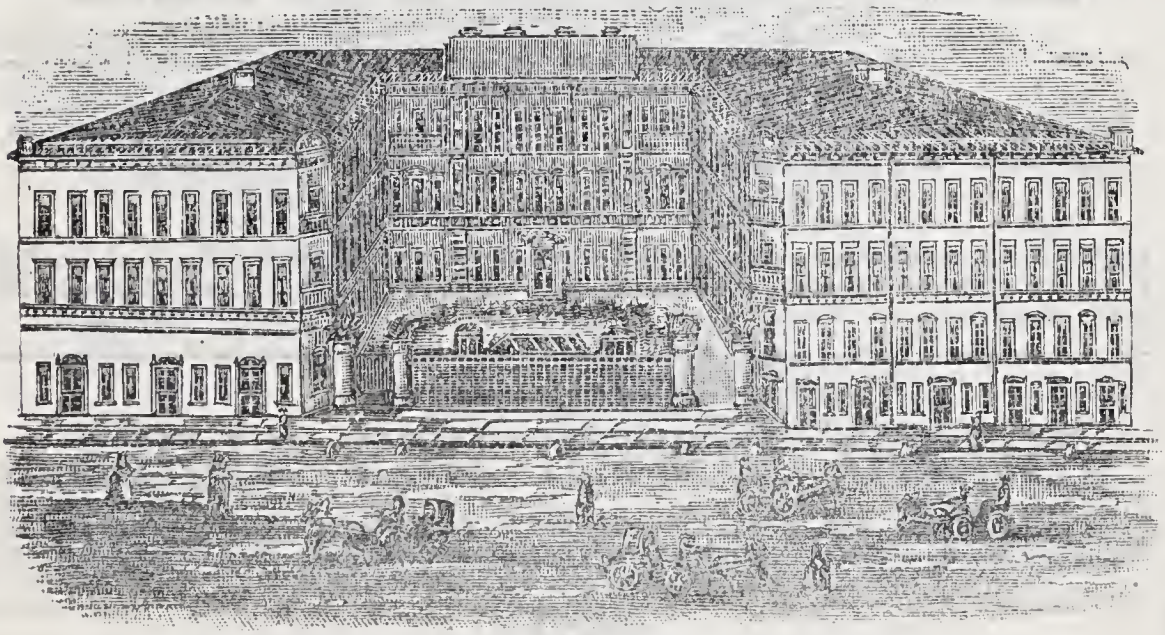

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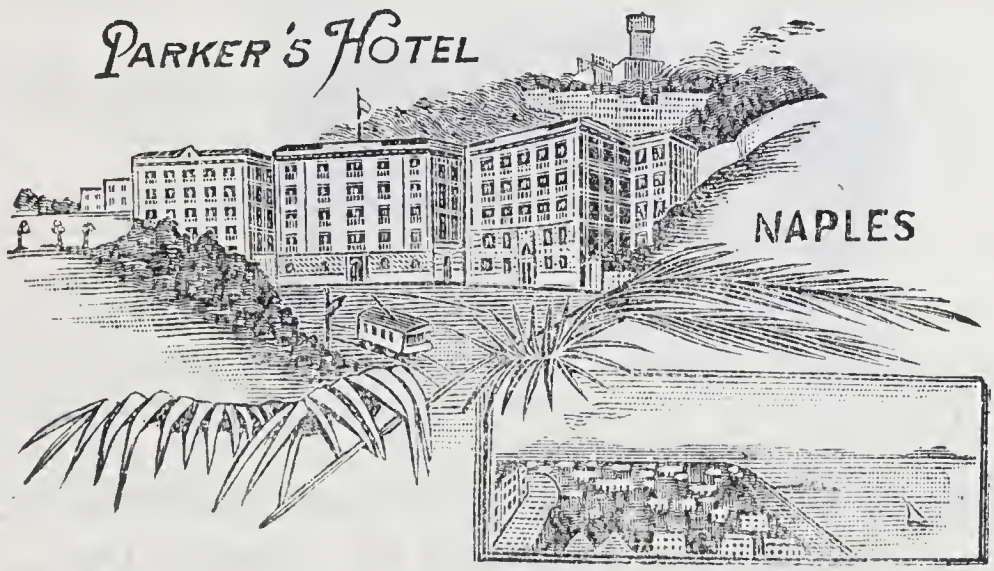

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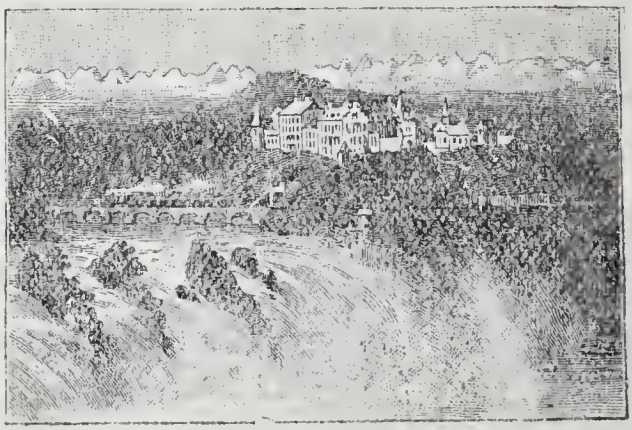

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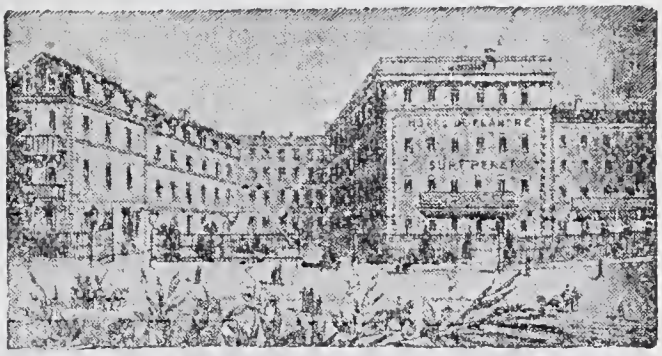

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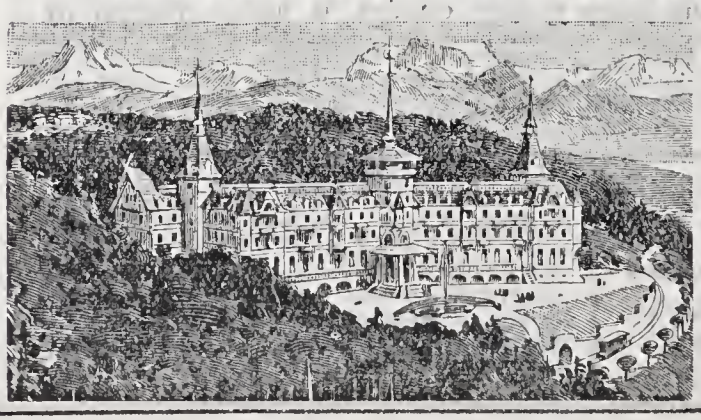

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